



Washington plunges into Trump impeachment investigation

By L. MASCARO, M.C. JALONICK and J. PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump pressed Ukraine's leader to "look into" his Democratic rival Joe Biden as well as his own enduring grievances from the 2016 election, according to a rough transcript of a summer phone call that is now at the center of Democrats' presidential

impeachment probe.

Trump repeatedly urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to work with U.S. Attorney General William Barr and with Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer.

At one point in the conversation, Trump said, "I would like for you to do us a favor."

Continued on Page 4



The rising sun divides the West Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday morning, Sept. 25, 2019, the day after Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., declared she will launch a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

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New burial rules seek to extend Arlington Cemetery lifespan

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**

Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) —

In an effort to save dwindling space, the Army is proposing new rules to limit who can be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Under the current rules, the cemetery would run out of space by the mid-2050s, the Army says. The proposed restrictions would preserve the cemetery's lifespan for another 150 years.

"Arlington National Cemetery is a national shrine for all Americans, but especially those who have served our great nation," Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy said in a statement. "We must ensure it can honor those we have lost for many years to come."



In this Thursday, March 28, 2019, file photo, a military bugler plays taps during a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Associated Press

Under the proposals, veterans who retired from active duty and were eligible for retirement pay would no longer be automatically eligible for in-ground burial. They would be eligible, though, for above-ground "inurnment" of cremated remains.

Those who were killed in action or received awards such as the Purple Heart or Silver Star could still receive an in-ground burial. U.S. presidents and vice presidents also would retain eligibility.

The proposed rules will now be subjected to the fed-

eral rulemaking process and published in the Federal Register, which allows the public to submit comments. If the public comments prompt no revisions, the new rules could take effect in about nine months. The cemetery, which is managed by the Army, has already conducted extensive public outreach to collect feedback on how it should shepherd its existing space. More than 250,000 people responded to a survey by the cemetery, and officials say roughly three-quarters of respondents favored restricting eligibility for burial in some way to preserve the cemetery's lifespan.

The cemetery's founding dates to the Civil War, when Union soldiers com-

mandeered the estate of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee overlooking the Potomac River and the nation's capital to bury the war dead.

More than 400,000 people are buried in the cemetery, and only 95,000 burial spaces remain, though a planned expansion will add 37 acres (15 hectares) of burial space and more than 10 years of life to the cemetery under the existing rules.

Even with the expansion, though, the cemetery faces a severe capacity problem in coming decades. Under the current rules, nearly all of the 22 million living armed forces members and veterans are eligible for burial at Arlington, the Army said. □

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Pennsylvania governor now supports legalizing marijuana

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is now in favor of legalizing marijuana for recreational use, saying Wednesday that most of the state's residents support it and that the state has a wealth of knowledge from the experience in other states to guide it. Wolf, a second-term Democrat, packaged his announcement with a call to the Republican-controlled Legislature to decriminalize small amounts of marijuana and allow the expungement of past convictions of nonviolent and small marijuana-related crimes. "I think it's time for the General Assembly to sit down and craft a bill that actually recognizes that Pennsylvania is ready for this, and also takes advantage of what we've learned from other states in terms of

what to do and what not to do," Wolf told a news conference in his Capitol offices. Pushback from the Legislature's top Republicans was forceful and quick Wednesday, as it has been in the past to the governor's overtures on marijuana. "Our caucus has no plans or interest in legalizing recreational marijuana," the House's Republican leadership said in a joint statement. Eleven states have approved the legalization of marijuana for recreational use, although only two state legislatures, in Vermont and Illinois, have passed bills to legalize marijuana, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Otherwise, voters in the other states legalized marijuana through referendum, an avenue that Pennsylvania law does not allow.

Wolf's announcement advances his position from last December, when he signaled that he was open to taking a look at it as it gathered popularity and momentum, in particular in bordering New Jersey and New York. Still, Wolf has long supported decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, although the Legislature hasn't even seriously considered legislation to that effect, and he signed legislation in 2016 creating Pennsylvania's medical



In this Aug. 15, 2019 file photo Gov. Tom Wolf speaks during a news conference at City Hall in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

marijuana program. Public opinion polls in Pennsylvania have shown a majority of those asked were in favor of legalizing

marijuana, as did a report released Wednesday from Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's statewide listening tour on legalizing marijuana. □

Report: More than 24,000 tainted drug convictions tossed

BOSTON (AP) — Thousands of drug convictions have been tossed in Massachusetts because of a former state drug lab chemist who worked while high almost every day. A report filed Tuesday with the state Supreme Judicial Court says more than 24,000 convictions in 16,449 cases have been dismissed as a result of the scandal. The American Civil Liberties Union say the dismissals represent a "historic victory" for people wrongfully convicted of drug crimes based on unreliable evidence. The Supreme Judicial Court ruled in October that Massachusetts must dismiss all convictions based on drug evidence tested at the Amherst lab between Jan. 1, 2009, and Jan. 18, 2013, when the lab closed. Sonja Farak pleaded guilty to stealing drugs from the lab in 2014. She was sentenced to 18 months behind bars. □

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Washington plunges into Trump impeachment investigation

Continued from Front

The president's words set the parameters for the debate to come — just the fourth impeachment investigation of an American president in the nation's history. The initial response highlighted the deep divide between the two parties: Democrats said the phone call amounted to a "shake-down" of a foreign leader, while Trump — backed by the vast majority of Republicans — dismissed it as a "nothing call."

The call is one part of a federal whistleblower complaint about the president's activities. After being stymied by the administration, lawmakers on the House and Senate intelligence committees got their first look at the complaint on Wednesday. Congress is also seeking an in-person interview with the whistleblower, who remains anonymous.

Trump spent the day meeting with world leaders at the United Nations, a remarkable TV split screen even for the turbulence of the Trump era. On his schedule: a meeting with Zelenskiy.

In a light-hearted appearance before reporters, Zelenskiy said he didn't want to get involved in American elections, but added that in the phone call, "Nobody pushed me." Trump chimed in, "In other words, no pressure."

The next steps in the impeachment inquiry were still developing a day after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched the probe. Moderate Democrats, including some from districts where Trump remains popular, urged the speaker to keep the inquiry to Ukraine and not expand into other issues Congress has already



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of N.Y. holds up a copy of a White House released rough transcript of a phone call between President Donald Trump and the President of Ukraine as Schumer speaks to the media about an impeachment inquiry on President Trump, Wednesday Sept. 25, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

been investigating.

"We need to be disciplined about how we communicate," said Rep. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan. "The minute we're talking about the intricacies of process is the minute that we are losing people."

Pelosi announced the impeachment probe on Tuesday after months of resistance to a process she has warned would be divisive for the country and risky for her party. But after viewing the transcript on Wednesday, Pelosi declared: "Congress must act."

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to move toward impeachment, confident that the specter of an investigation led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

"It's a joke. Impeachment, for that?" Trump said during a news conference in New York. He revived the same language he has used for

months to deride the now-finished special counsel investigation into election interference, declaring impeachment "a hoax" and the "single greatest witch hunt in American history." Republicans largely stood by the president and dismissed the notion that the rough transcript revealed any wrongdoing by Trump. "I think it was a perfectly appropriate phone call, it was a congratulatory phone call," said Rep. Liz Cheney, the No. 3 House Republican.

"The Democrats continually make these huge claims and allegations about President Trump, and then you find out there's no there there."

The memo released by the White House was not a verbatim transcript, but was instead based on the records of officials who listened to the call. The conversation took place on July 25, one day after special counsel Robert Mueller testified on

gas company. Trump, immediately after saying he and Zelenskiy would be in touch, references Ukraine's economy, saying: "Your economy is going to get better and better I predict. You have a lot of assets. It's a great country."

At another point in the conversation, Trump asks Zelenskiy for a favor: his help looking into a cybersecurity firm that investigated the 2016 hack of the Democratic National Committee and determined it was carried out by Russia. Trump has falsely suggested CrowdStrike was owned by a Ukrainian.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son. □

Associated Press

Capitol Hill about his investigation into Russia's 2016 election interference. In the 30-minute phone call with Zelenskiy, Trump encourages the Ukrainian leader to talk with Giuliani and Barr about Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukrainian

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Off-duty officer won't be charged in deadly Costco shooting

By STEFANIE DAZIO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An off-duty Los Angeles police officer will not be charged for fatally shooting a mentally ill man who had attacked him and his young son from behind in a California Costco, prosecutors said Wednesday.

In announcing a grand jury's findings, Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin said Officer Salvador Sanchez believed he had been shot in the head and a shooter was on the loose when he and his son were knocked to the ground in the unprovoked assault.

Hestrin said his office would not bring its own charges against Sanchez in the wake of the grand jury decision.

Sanchez, a seven-year veteran of the LAPD, opened fire June 14, killing 32-year-old Kenneth French and critically injuring his parents, Russell and Paola French.

"In a case like this, it's appropriate for the community to weigh in," Hestrin said at a news conference about the grand jury deliberations. "This case has weighed heavily on us."

Dale Galipo, an attorney for the French family, said he was "disappointed but not surprised" by the development. He said he believes prosecutors only took the case to a grand jury to appease the community and may not have pushed hard enough to persuade the jurors.

Ira Salzman, Sanchez's lawyer, said his client was "gratified" to hear he won't be charged. Salzman said Sanchez did not testify before the grand jury but had given evidence to the district attorney's office regarding his state of mind and subsequent medical records showing a concussion.

"Sal believed he was shot," Salzman said. "The case was a terrible tragedy."

The officer remains on paid administrative leave as the LAPD conducts an inquiry into whether Sanchez followed department policies.

The encounter in the Co-



This June 14, 2019 file photo shows heavily armed police officers leaving the Corona, Calif., Costco store following a fatal shooting inside.

rona warehouse store spanned just 3.8 seconds. Investigators relied on a single, poor-quality surveillance video and witness testimony — some of which had to be compelled through subpoenas.

Sanchez, holding his 1½-year-old son, was standing in line for food samples with his wife when French, without warning or provocation, knocked Sanchez and the child to the ground.

Seconds later, prosecutors said,

Sanchez fired 10 rounds from his handgun, believing his life and his son's life were in immediate danger from an active shooter.

Four bullets struck French in the back and shoulder, one struck his mother in the stomach and another hit his father in the back, Corona police Chief George Johnstone said.

The gunfire prompted chaos inside the warehouse as terrified shoppers rushed to leave while police officers — who also believed there was an active shooter — ran inside.

Witnesses reported seeing Sanchez reach to the back of his head multiple times to look for blood, Hestrin said, noting that Sanchez's claim of being knocked unconscious was not supported by any evidence.

Galipo has said Russell and Paola French were trying to explain to the officer that his son had a mental dis-

ability when shots rang out. French, of Riverside, had been taken off his medication because of other health complications,

which may have affected his behavior that night, Galipo has said.

The family has filed a claim — a precursor to a lawsuit

Associated Press

— against Sanchez and the Los Angeles Police Department. Galipo said he plans to file a federal lawsuit within the next month. □

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Plan for Little Rock schools stokes fears about segregation

By **ANDREW DeMILLO**
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) —

A plan to only grant Little Rock partial control of its schools is stoking fears that the district may return to a racially segregated "separate but equal" system 62 years after nine black students were escorted into an all-white high school.

The state took over Little Rock's 23,000-student district in January 2015 because of low test scores at six of the district's 48 schools. With the five-year deadline for ending the takeover approaching, the state Board of Education last week came up with a plan to return only limited control of some schools to a local board that would be elected next year.

Many details remain unclear, including what limits the new nine-member board would have on its authority and who would run the remaining schools. However, the plan has already prompted comparisons to the 1957 crisis over Little Rock Central's integration. Opponents argue that the move would effectively create two districts, with several predominantly black schools still under some form of state control. "Why Little Rock? Why, 62 years later ... are we right back where we were before?" Democratic Sen. Linda Chesterfield asked.

When the Arkansas Board of Education took over the district, it dismissed the local school board and put the district superintendent under state control. The state's board last week approved a "framework" for the district's future if it doesn't meet the require-



In this Sept. 26, 1957 file photo, members of the 101st Airborne Division take up positions outside Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.

ments to leave state control. Under the plan, schools that are rated at least "D" by the state would remain under the control of the board. Schools rated "F" would be placed under "different leadership" in partnership with the district, though it's unclear what that means. The plan also says another category of schools that are being re-configured "may" be run by the local board.

All but one of the eight currently F-rated schools in the district are located south of Interstate 630, which is historically viewed as the dividing line between Little Rock's predominantly white and predominantly black neighborhoods. The latest grades for the schools come out next month.

"If you do this, you're helping to perpetuate a divide that was put there deliberately," Democratic Sen. Joyce Elliott, referring to the interstate, told the board last week. "If you do this, you will be furthering that effort to keep us divided deliberately."

Proponents say the plan gives parents and community leaders the local control they've been seeking but offers the schools the state support they need to address academic problems.

"If the state ignored the academic performance measures and returned all schools without sufficient support, then we would surely have dedicated civil rights lawyers that would immediately be filing a

lawsuit saying we're not meeting our obligations," said Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who dismissed the notion that the plan amounts to re-segregation. "That is wrong, it is not based in fact and it is really trying to resurrect old history that has no application to today," Hutchinson said. The testing system and accountability measures for schools have changed since the 2015 takeover. Education officials say that although the district hasn't made the academic gains it hoped to make, it has improved in some areas, such as its facilities and finances. "There were a lot more problems in Little Rock than just the way the academics was showing up when we intervened, and we dis-

covered all those after the fact," Board Chairwoman Diane Zook said.

Parents and educators advocating for local control say the district is being punished for the state failing to meet its own goals. They also note that there are F-rated schools in other parts Arkansas that aren't being put under state control.

"We deserve one district, not a three-tiered district, not a segregated district, not a district with two leaderships," said Vicki Hatter, a Little Rock district parent. "We deserve one district, one full district, and a duly elected school board."

The plan wasn't released until the morning the board voted, which critics said kept the public in the dark. Other steps taken by the state have sown mistrust, local control supporters say. The contract for the first superintendent appointed by the state to run Little Rock schools wasn't renewed after he opposed the expansion of charter schools in the district. The state board in December voted to waive employee protections for the district, despite complaints that the move would make it difficult to recruit and retain educators.

The board will take up another plan next month to no longer recognize the district's teacher's union, the Little Rock Education Association, as its sole bargaining agent. The proposal was tabled after it came up moments after the board passed the framework for Little Rock schools, eliciting complaints from community leaders, teachers and the district's superintendent. □

Animal rescue operators charged after 150 dead dogs found

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH** and **DAVID WARREN**

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

A couple who operated an animal rescue face multiple charges after authorities found about 150 dead dogs on property in Missouri and Texas and rescued hundreds more animals that were packed into cages and living in "unimaginable" conditions, law enforcement said.

Tiffany and Steven Woodington operated All Accounted For, which brought animals from Texas to Missouri, the Benton County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post Monday. Authorities said they found nearly 300 animals living at the operations in Texas and Missouri, but that many of the animals had to be euthanized because of poor health.

Tiffany Woodington, 49, is charged in Missouri with 10 counts of felony animal abuse and two misdemeanor counts of animal abuse. Her husband, Steven Woodington, 55, is charged in Texas with 19 counts of animal cruelty. A second man described as the caretaker also was charged in Texas with animal cruelty. All three are free on bond. No attorney is listed for Tiffany Woodington in online court records and she doesn't have a listed number.

Cameron County, Texas, Sheriff Omar Lucio said Tuesday that authorities discovered about 270 animals — about two dozen of them dead — on property in the small community of Los Fresnos, which is north of Brownsville in the far southern part of the state. They were found Sept. 9 after authorities received complaints from neighbors about barking dogs, according to Lucio and Cameron County prosecutor Edward Sandoval. Depu-

ties found many of the dogs covered in feces and urine, with two or three of them packed together in each cage. Authorities estimated that more than half

ington was transporting the animals to Cole Camp, Missouri, which is about 90 miles (145 kilometers) south-east of Kansas City. Law enforcement went to a

fast," according to the report.

Jeane Jae, a spokeswoman for the Humane Society of Missouri, said the surviving animals, which are in



This undated photo provided by the Benton County, Mo., Sheriff's Office in Warsaw, Mo., shows Tiffany Woodington, who was charged Friday, Sept. 20, 2019, in Missouri with 10 counts of felony animal abuse and two misdemeanor counts of animal abuse.

Associated Press

of the Texas dogs wouldn't survive or would have to be euthanized.

"This is the worst case of animal abuse I've ever seen," said Lucio, who's been in law enforcement for more than 50 years. "The multitude? It's staggering, it's staggering to the imagination."

Paul Fourt Jr., the attorney for Steven Woodington, said his client intends to plead not guilty to the charges.

"He was at all times trying to rescue and save those animals," Fourt said, explaining that Woodington intended to also send the dogs to shelters in Kansas and Oklahoma so that they could ultimately be adopted.

Fourt indicated that others were responsible for their mistreatment.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office said Steven Wood-

ington led them to an old school bus, a barn and a house.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office said it found about 120 dead dogs and a dead cat in "various stages of decay, some were just bones" on Sept. 12. Benton County Sheriff Eric Knox said some of the animals died in the same cages, making it difficult to get an exact count. Authorities also found 38 dogs and one cat "alive but in unimaginable conditions." Tiffany Woodington had moved some of them to another location in the area, a sheriff's sergeant wrote in a report.

Tiffany Woodington told authorities that the dogs died of distemper and all within a three-day span. She was asked why she didn't seek help and "she did not have answer other than it just happened so

its care, were matted and skinny. "It is going to take a long time to rehabilitate these animals," she said, adding that one dog and one cat found in Missouri had to be euthanized for medical reasons.

Knox said he had heard "not a word" about problems before the dead animals were found, even though the nearest neighbor lived about 500 feet (152 meters) away.

"It really surprises me that no one in the community said, 'You better check that lady out.'"

And the smell, as soon as I drove up, I could smell it," he said. "I am a dog lover, and I struggle with it." □

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EU watches Brexit saga in Britain with bewilderment

By RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Three years later, and it looks like the Brexit tables have turned.

Boris Johnson and fellow Brexiteers expected to negotiate the European Union ragged for a deal that gave the U.K. as many advantages of EU membership as possible after the divorce - and as few of the burdens.

When it came to Brexit, Johnson said, the British position should be was "having our cake and eating it." Now, after agreeing twice already to postpone the country's pull out date, remaining EU members watch in amazement as Brexit divides Britain as much as its supporters thought privileged relations with Britain would split Europe.

"Every day brings something new," Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's main Brexit official said wryly on Wednesday. For British politicians, "it has been a steep learning curve," German Marshall Fund senior fellow Rosa Balfour said. Poor leadership from both the main Conservative and Labour parties drove the country into a dead-end, effectively allowing the EU to dominate



European Parliament Brexit chief Guy Verhofstadt addresses European Parliament members during a committee about the Brexit at the European Parliament in Brussels, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019.

Brexit negotiations so far, Balfour said.

"Tribal party politics prevail, and the jury is still out as to whether democratic institutions as a whole - Parliament, Supreme Court - can prevent a path now proven to be harmful for Britain," she said. "Brexit shows that British democracy needs to be upgraded."

Johnson was London's mayor before the U.K.'s 2016 referendum on EU membership, served as foreign secretary in Theresa

May's government before resigning over her handling of Brexit, and succeeded May as prime minister on July 13.

While he is spending all his political energy at home, the EU is tapping its watch as the current Brexit deadline of Oct. 31 nears, noting that Johnson's government has put no new agreement proposals on the table to prevent a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit.

EU parliamentary committees have been assessing

the static state of play at a juncture when British and EU negotiators sparring over departure terms in the corridors of EU headquarters were supposed to be providing Brexit drama.

At the same time, Johnson was fighting for his government's survival in London on Wednesday after the U.K.'s highest court ruled he illegally suspended Parliament. The opposition and some Conservative colleagues accused the prime minister of trying to

shut lawmakers out of the Brexit debate in the crucial period before the Oct. 31 departure date. "It is a good thing that he has been stopped by the British system," said Verhofstadt, echoing comments from across Europe. However, EU leaders have stayed mum out of reluctance to wade into a member's domestic politics and inflaming feelings anti-EU sentiment.

The Supreme Court's cancellation of the suspension and Parliament reconvening reduced the odds of a no-deal exit, with the fortunes of the House of Commons surging and Johnson's sagging. The EU already reached a deal with Theresa May, but lawmakers voted it down three times and precipitated her resignation.

Verhofstadt expects a briefing on technical talks for an EU-U.K. agreement. But he insisted Johnson's most recent proposals stand no chance of breaking the negotiations stalemate. The new prime minister's short and rocky road shows that British politics are as unpredictable as ever. And the EU, already feeling burned by the first Brexit deal's bad ending, is not eager to repeat the experience. □

Algerian ex-president's brother, former spy bosses convicted

By AOMAR OUALI

Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — A military court in Algeria on Wednesday sentenced the brother of the country's longtime former leader and two ex-intelligence chiefs to 15 years in prison for plotting against the state.

The overnight ruling against men who once wielded immense power in Africa's largest country represents another blow to the legacy of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was forced out as president by street protests and the army chief in April. Also handed a 15-year prison term was the leader of a leftist political party, Louisa Hanoune, for decades a fixture on Algeria's political scene. Her defense lawyer, Mokrane Ait Larbi, told The



In this Thursday, May 4, 2017 file photo, Said Bouteflika, the brother of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, takes ballots before voting in Algiers.

Associated Press that he would file an appeal, calling the two days of proceedings a "politically driven trial."

All four were arrested in

May. The oil- and gas-rich country is now struggling to find a new political path, and protesters have maintained street demonstrations because much of

the state apparatus under Bouteflika remains.

In a statement from the town of Blida, the court said seven people were convicted in the closed-door trial in the town of Blida, with three of them, believed to have fled the country, convicted in absentia and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Among the four held were Said Bouteflika, brother and special counsellor of Bouteflika, and former intelligence figures Gen. Athmane Tartag and Gen. Mohamed Mediene, who was known Toufik — a name that once made Algerians tremble.

They were convicted of plotting against the state and undermining the army in the early weeks of the

protests against Bouteflika, who was seeking a fifth mandate despite infirmities following a stroke.

The charges centered on March meetings between the three men and Hanoune, leader of the left-wing Workers Party. Some feared they were plotting to fire powerful army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah, who at the time was siding with the protesters. Lahcene Serriak, the lawyer for Toufik, a general who headed the powerful DRS intelligence service and forced into retirement in 2015, said his client told the court on Tuesday that "the real plot that put me in court today grew from my attempts to fight corruption," notably against the Bouteflika clan. □



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Migrants arrive in Europe with big hopes, many questions

By RENATA BRITO
Associated Press

MESSINA, Sicily (AP) —

As the weary passengers aboard a rescue ship approached Sicily at the end of an agonizing journey from North Africa, 30-year-old Seke Awa called a friend back in Libya the moment she got cellphone reception.

"I told her we are on the big boat and sent her courage, that she needs to have hope. One day her suffering may end," said Awa, a native of Cameroon.

"She was crying."

A total of 182 people, rescued a week ago from fragile boats off Libya's coast, arrived in Italy on Tuesday, filled with excitement and hope, but also myriad questions about what comes next.

Will they be allowed to stay in Europe? If so, in which country?

And will they have a choice? Can they go to school even if they are adults? How much does a SIM card cost?

Nelson Oyedele, 37, said he fled violence and poverty in Nigeria with his wife and four small children.

"I don't know where I'm going to end up, I'm just going," he told an Associated Press reporter on the Ocean Viking, a Norwegian-flagged rescue ship run by the humanitarian organizations Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranean.

"My daughter says she wants to become a doctor. She could never become a doctor back in our country. Maybe here she will."

Oyedele was the only man on the ship traveling as part of a complete family.

The rest had left behind wives, husbands, children

and parents in their home countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Abdul Kerim, 20, said he fled persecution in Togo and wants to reunite with brothers and aunts living in Germany.

He hopes to be granted asylum and is open to any kind of work, though he dreams of having his own construction company.

"I will work for Europe and give all I have," he said. "If possible I would like my family to join me." His wife and 2-year-old son are still in Togo.

However, Kerim and others disembarking in Messina will have no control over where they end up. Their fate will be decided in negotiations among a few European countries that agreed to take them in.

Asylum is typically reserved for people fleeing war and persecution. People escaping poverty in West Africa rarely qualify. In Germany, only 6.5% of Nigerians whose asylum cases have been decided this year received some sort of protection. For Syrians, it was nearly 84%.

The migrants on the Ocean Viking came from a number of countries, including Sudan, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Egypt, Morocco and Bangladesh. As they arrived in Messina, their immediate worry was contacting loved ones for the first time since they left Libya, where rape, torture and abuse are widespread at the hands of smugglers demanding ransom payments from the migrants' families.

The Ocean Viking docked in Messina after receiving permission to enter Italy, a country that until a change of governments this month

had closed its ports to humanitarian rescue ships, saying their activities encouraged human smuggling. Police and Red Cross workers waited for the migrants on shore.

As they approached Sicily, the passengers marveled at a gargantuan cruise ship docked on the Italian mainland across the Strait of Messina. □



Men wait to disembark from the Ocean Viking ship as it reaches the port of Messina, Italy, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

ANUNCIO IMPORTANTE



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Debi na un presentacion tocante "Team Up" na nos empleadonan, nos sucursalan lo sera riba e siguiente fecha:

26 di september, 2019 di 12:00PM adelante:
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Na tur sucursal operacion lo reanuda manera custumber e dia siguiente pa 8:00AM.

Due to an important presentation to our employees on "Team Up" our branches will close on the following date:

September 26, 2019 from 12:00PM onwards:
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Former rebel stronghold in Syria begins to rebuild

By YURAS KARMANAU

Associated Press

KHAN SHEIKHOUN, Syria (AP) — Portraits of Syrian President Bashar Assad

adorn a few buildings still intact after years of fighting and Russian soldiers hand out food and other supplies to residents of this Syrian town that was recently captured by the Syrian army. Khan Sheikhoun, which holds a strategic position in Syria's northwestern Idlib province, fell to Assad's forces last month following weeks of a massive offensive by Syrian troops backed by Russian military support.

On Wednesday, a group of foreign reporters on a trip to Syria organized by the Russian Defense Ministry saw municipal workers clearing the streets of debris, and Russian troops distributing aid. The town, which had a population of 65,000 when Syria's civil war erupted in 2011, now has only about 4,000 residents.

"People are afraid to come back, we still need to inspire public confidence," said Mohammed Sadoun, the acting mayor. "People are paralyzed by fear."

Idlib, which lies on the border with Turkey, is the last major rebel stronghold in



Syrian soldiers prepare to take part in military exercises led by Russian military advisers at a military base about 50-kilometers away from Damascus, Syria, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

the country's eight-year civil war, and Syrian troops have been on the offensive since April 30 to take control of the area. The onslaught has provoked frictions between Russia and Turkey, which struck a de-escalation agreement for Idlib a year ago. Turkey protested the offensive, describing it as a violation of the deal and urged Russia to rein in Assad. But Russia, which together with Iran has helped Assad's government regain control over most of the

country, has insisted the offensive in Idlib was necessary to uproot militants who used the area as a base to launch attacks on Syrian government troops and Russia's military base.

Sadoun said authorities are working to reopen seven local schools, even though the front lines remain close by. Water and electricity supplies are still missing, and Russian troops distribute food and other items to the population.

"It's like before the war,"

45-year-old Khalia Umransaid after receiving her aid package. "We can eat and sleep quietly. Under the rebel control, life was like hell. They killed my brother and abducted my daughter, but the suffering is now over." Anas Pserini, a father of seven who returned to Khan Sheikhoun after it was captured by government forces, was also grateful for the Russian aid. "I want to have a job, but it will only be possible after peace is restored," he said.

At the nearby Suran checkpoint, Syrian authorities on Wednesday greeted a group of about 100 people, mostly women and children, crossing into the government-controlled territory from the rebel-held areas.

"Life is horrible there, I saw dead bodies every day," said 80-year old Amina Nahas. "I want my family to live a peaceful life."

On April 3, 2017 an attack on Khan Sheikhoun left residents gasping for breath and convulsing in the streets and overcrowded hospitals. Nearly 90 people were killed. The United States, Britain and France accused the Syrian government of using nerve agents in the attack and days later, the U.S. fired 59 U.S. Tomahawk missiles at the Shayrat Air Base in central Syria, saying the attack on Khan Sheikhoun was launched from the base.

Assad's government and Russia rejected the charges, alleging the chemical attack was staged by the rebels to provoke the U.S. strike. On Wednesday, Ravil Muginov, a Russian army general, charged that the rebels in Idlib were trying to prevent civilians from leaving the areas they control. □

Lawyers: 3 Egyptian activists detained amid wave of arrests

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian security forces arrested three political activists known for their outspoken criticism of Egypt's government and president, defense lawyers said Wednesday, amid an intensified crackdown on dissent following small but rare anti-government protests over the weekend.

The demonstrations erupted over corruption allegations earlier this month against the military and President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, by an Egyptian businessman living in self-imposed exile. El-Sissi, who is currently attending the United Nations General Assembly, has dismissed the corruption allegations as "sheer lies."

Police quickly dispersed the protests, but they signi-



In this Feb. 23, 2015 file photo, Khaled Dawoud, then spokesman for the liberal al-Doustour party, waves to 21 activists sentenced by an Egyptian court to prison terms over an unauthorized street protest in 2013, at a court, in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

fied a startling eruption of street unrest. Demonstrations have been almost completely silenced in recent years, with those who dare take to the streets being quickly arrested and re-

ceiving lengthy prison sentences.

Attorneys Nour Farahat and Khaled el-Masry identified the three detained activists as Hazem Hosny, Hassan Nafaa and Khaled

Dawoud.

Hosny and Nafaa are political science professors at Cairo University and were arrested Tuesday. Hosny also was a spokesman for the 2018 presidential campaign of Sami Annan, who served as chief-of-staff for former president Hosni Mubarak. Annan was detained in January last year. Dawoud, a journalist and former head of the liberal al-Doustour party, was arrested Wednesday. Dawoud, Hosny and Nafaa have been brought before prosecutors, according to attorney Khaled Ali.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry, which oversees police, could not be reached for comment.

The short-lived protests impacted Egypt's stock exchange, which suspended

trading for 30 minutes on Sunday, the first day of the country's work week, after its main index fell by 5 percent. After three days of losses, the exchange went up 3.22 percent Wednesday, according to the state-run MENA news agency.

Over the past week, authorities have conducted a wave of arrests, according to rights lawyers. The arrests came amid new calls for protests in the coming days on social media, from which Friday's demonstrators took their cue.

Prosecutors have questioned at least 750 people about claims that they took part in activities of an outlawed group, a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, and disseminating false news, he said. □



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Africa's charcoal trade is decimating fragile forest cover

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

The machete-wielding men lodge themselves deep inside forests for weeks at a time, felling trees that will be incinerated into pieces of charcoal. Because they often work at night and target seemingly idle public land, they operate with relative impunity while decimating forests in parts of Africa.

Fires in Brazil's Amazon rainforest have underscored the challenges of conserving the Earth's forest cover, a substantial amount of which is found in Africa. After the Amazon, the Congo basin tropical rainforest — covering territory the size of Western Europe — is the world's second largest, often referred to as the Earth's second lung.

The world's poorest continent, home to over 1.2 billion people, has long struggled to protect its forests amid a population explosion that fuels demand for plant-based energy sources seen by many as cheap, especially charcoal.

Some 25% to 35% of climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions come from so-called biomass burning, which also includes seasonal fires intentionally set to clear land for agriculture, according to the European Space Agency. The majority of those fires occur in tropical regions of Africa.

Reliance on charcoal or firewood is highest in Africa and Asia, according to a 2018 report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, with some African cities almost entirely



In this Monday, Feb. 10, 2014 file photo, women carrying wood walk past a French military patrol 10 kms south of Yaloke, north of Bangui, in Central African Republic.

dependent on charcoal for cooking. In Kinshasa, the capital of Congo, 90% of residents rely mainly on it, the report said.

In Somalia, ravaged by extremist violence, the cutting of trees to sustain an illicit charcoal trade is so widespread that the U.N. has warned that desertification there threatens stability.

The value of the charcoal export trade from the Horn of Africa nation to the Middle East and elsewhere — though banned — is estimated at over \$360 million per year. Some 8.2 million trees were felled for charcoal between 2011 and 2017, according to U.N. figures.

In Uganda, an East African nation whose lush vegetation once inspired Winston Churchill to call it "the pearl of Africa," authorities have

long warned about the unsustainable nature of the charcoal trade, which persists despite the extension of the power grid deep into the country. Hydroelectric power remains too expensive for many people even in the capital, Kampala, as middle-class families run charcoal stoves to keep electricity bills down.

Edwin Muhumuza, an environmental protection activist who runs the Kampala-based civic group Youth Go Green, said demand for charcoal has turned it into a precious commodity much like gold or coffee.

"We are really concerned," he said. "What annoys is they cut down the trees but they don't replace them."

Now the National Environment Management Authority, a government agency, is urging authorities to remove consumption taxes

on liquid petroleum gas, an alternative source of cooking energy, to save forests from the charcoal business. Figures show a dire situation. Uganda's forest cover as a percentage of total land stood at 9% in 2015, down from 24% in 1990, according to government data.

But authorities in northern districts such as Gulu, which provides much of the charcoal entering Kampala, are fighting back in a campaign that has yielded scores of impounded charcoal trucks since 2015.

Gulu chairman Martin Mapenduzi organizes raids in hopes of arresting charcoal burners.

"Illegal logging has gone down but the destruction of forests for charcoal burning is still high," Mapenduzi said. "It's something that is giving us a lot of head-

ache, but we are fighting."

The price of a bag of charcoal, which can sustain a small family for several weeks, has been rising steadily in Kampala, reaching about \$28 in August largely because of reduced supply from places such as Gulu. A whole bag is unaffordable for many who instead buy it daily in smaller quantities.

The expense is still far too much for families, said Rose Twine, an entrepreneur who sells her version of an eco-stove while warning against what she calls the unsustainable reliance on charcoal.

One eco-stove, which comes with volcanic rocks that can last for up to two years, costs \$110. Yearly charcoal expenses for a typical family, at about 80 cents a day, can exceed \$300, she said.

"Charcoal is actually not cheaper," Twine said. "People are just stuck in their old ways."

Since 2011 only 55,000 eco-stoves have been sold to households in a country of over 40 million people, she said, underscoring the challenges of selling alternatives to charcoal.

Rampant forest degradation has inspired campaigns in some African countries to take action.

This week Gabon became the first African country to receive payments for verifiable efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions stemming from deforestation, the U.N. Development Program said, calling the deal worth \$150 million over 10 years "historic in many ways." □

Mexican president trades barbs with business, civic groups

By MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president engaged in a war of words Wednesday with business and civic groups that have lodged legal challenges to one of his pet projects.

The groups were angered when Andrés Manuel López Obrador abandoned the previous administration's partly built airport on a former lakebed, claiming the project was drenched in corruption and cost too much.

Instead, López Obrador wants to build the new airport at a military base farther away, arguing it would cost less. But the business and civic groups, which formed a coalition called No More Waste, say the president is wasting billions of dollars already spent on the old project.

López Obrador teased one of the groups this week, calling it "Mexicans For Corruption," playing on its real name, Mexicans Against Corruption.

"They have been sabotaging us legally. They are the ones filing lawsuits against the projects; they don't want us to do anything," López Obrador said at his daily news conference.



President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and first lady Beatriz Gutierrez Muller wave after Lopez Obrador gave the annual independence shout from the balcony of the National Palace to kick off Independence Day celebrations at the Zocalo in Mexico City, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

"They want the same old regime of corruption."

Like much of the coalition, the nonprofit Mexicans Against Corruption is backed by prominent businessmen. It has filed dozens of lawsuits seeking to block the new project.

López Obrador claims the business groups had an economic interest in the old project.

The No More Waste coalition took out full-page

newspaper ads defending its court challenges, saying, "We will continue to fight in court for fulfillment of the law and the correct uses of public funds."

"We are not acting out of any economic interest, nor because we oppose your administration," the coalition said. "We are acting out of civic concern that the law be obeyed and that out tax money be spent wisely, efficiently,

honestly and with transparency."

The new project has essentially been stalled for months by the lawsuits. But the government recently presented appeals arguing the project is a question of national security, and thus can't be challenged.

It is not the first time López Obrador has tangled with watchdog agencies, civic groups and news outlets he dismisses as "conservative"

or "frivolous."

The president has tried to ram through ambitious transport and oil infrastructure projects, often despite complaints of insufficient study of the environment or economic impacts.

The coalition argued that, "Polarization will not help serve the cause we all should be seeking: the development of Mexico."

López Obrador is about as far from a businessman as one can get; he acknowledged Wednesday that he has never even had a credit card.

So the president was surprised when tax authorities tipped him off that someone had registered him, apparently without his knowledge, as a partner or shareholder in 26 companies, all registered at the same time in the same city early this year. He said tax authorities were investigating the case.

"I am not a businessman, though I respect them a lot. I am a public servant," López Obrador said. "I don't own businesses or properties. I barely have a bank account where my paychecks are deposited. I have never had a credit card, as incredible as that seems." □

Haiti president calls for unity as protesters reject appeal



In this Aug. 28, 2019 file photo, Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse speaks during an interview in his office in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

By EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haitian President Jovenel Moïse on Wednesday urged a pause in unrest that has paralyzed the Caribbean nation, but offered no solution to the de-

mands of protesters furious over corruption, a gasoline shortage and growing economic hardship.

Moïse, who has largely avoided public appearances in recent weeks, made a televised appeal for unity as he asked op-

ponents to help his administration resolve the multiple problems facing Haiti.

"Unemployment, insecurity and political turmoil prevent children from going to school, paralyzing many other activities," he said. "These events have far-reaching consequences for our lives and the lives of our children." The country has been roiled by months of protests over a corruption scandal involving allegations that top government officials under the previous government misused billions of dollars public funds meant for urgent social programs. So far, no one has been indicted.

Surging inflation has been eating away at salaries in one of the hemisphere's poorest nations and the cash-starved government

has been unable to pay gasoline suppliers who are demanding some \$100 million owed for previous shipments. They have cut off deliveries, forcing gas stations in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere to remain largely closed for three weeks.

Meanwhile, opposition lawmakers have blocked Moïse's choice of prime minister as a way to pressure him to leave office and hinder his ability to govern. That led to a clash Monday in which a senator fired a gun as protesters rushed toward him and two people were hit by bullets, including an Associated Press photographer and a Senate guard.

Most schools and businesses remained closed on Wednesday and protesters set up barricades including

burning tires across Port-au-Prince and surrounding communities despite Moïse's speech. In some areas, protesters threw rocks and bottles at cars and pedestrians, officials said.

"Let us have the courage to dare to unite," he said.

"Let us have the courage to reject the practices that have fueled our adversity." But the embattled president did not offer to step down, as protesters have demanded for months, nor did he offer solutions to the economic woes. Jean-Marie Brincaire, a 45-year-old unemployed man who was trying to find food for his three children in Port-au-Prince, said he heard the speech but was disappointed that Moïse didn't address issues including corruption allegations. □

LOCAL



World Tourism Day: "Tourism and Jobs — A Better Future for All"



ORANJESTAD — The United Nations World Tourism Organization declared September 27th as International Tourism Day with this year's theme: 'Tourism and Jobs — A Better Future for All'. A better theme could not have been picked for Aruba. Tourism is our main economic pillar, and its no. # 1 source of household income.

In relation to this day, the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A) organizes a conference and invites students from the university and vocational schools and will pay visits to secondary schools. This all in line with the goal of United Nations to educate the public on the importance of the tourism industry, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements

of the people working in tourism.

About three quarters of the Aruban gross national product is earned through tourism and related activities. Most tourists are from North-America, with a market-share of 73.3%, which is followed by Latin America with 15.2% and Europe with 8.3%. In the course of 2018, Aruba welcomed a total of 1,082,003 stay-over visitors.

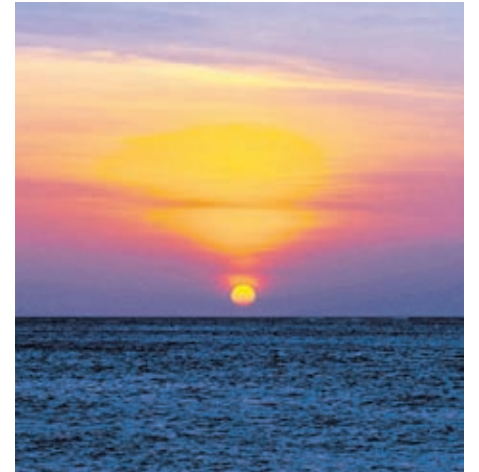
Global Growth

According to the website of United Nations over the past six decades, tourism has experienced continued expansion and diversification, and it has become one of the fastest growing and most important economic sectors in the world, benefiting destinations and communities worldwide. International tourist ar-

rivals worldwide have grown from 25 million in 1950 to nearly 1.3 billion today. Similarly, international tourism revenues earned by destinations around the world have grown from 2 billion US dollars in 1950 to 1260 trillion in 2015. The sector represents an estimated 10% of the world's GDP and 1 in 10 jobs globally. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) expects that tourism will continue to grow at an average of 3% annually until 2030. This growth reflects the progressive expansion of access to tourism thanks to the decline in the price of transport, especially air transport, and growing middle classes worldwide. The recognition of the right to holidays in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the improved adoption of labor rights in many countries, have also supported the coming of age of tourism. These factors also serve as a backdrop for the resilience shown by tourism in recent years. The sector has experienced almost uninterrupted growth despite challenges such as the global economic crisis, natural disasters and pandemics. (Source: <https://www.un.org/en/events/tourismday/>).

Pressure Points

With a high percentage of the island's population depending on tourism for their income, locals express a high appreciation towards Aruba's visitors resulting in great feedback from tourists regarding our service and offerings. However,



it is inevitable that some challenges that come with the amount of people added to the local population that together with a need for new utilities, infrastructure, food and housing. In social media, discussions are trending - among others - about the negative effects on nature caused by the use of ATVs by our tourists. Employers in the industry complain about the lack of employees, and tourists mention the increase in construction of new resorts and condominiums. They wish for the island to keep the unique assets like the quietness, safety and top service to which they've grown accustomed. There is no denying, in fact, that pressure points do exist, but discussions are healthy way to address the government in order to preserve the island's values. A.T.A. has set up a special program named 'My Promise to Aruba' which stimulates locals, as well as visitors to take care of Aruba's environment and culture to help preserve the island for future generations. The program contains rules for behavior and information to educate how to make sure Aruba remains a Dushi Island. □





Small Beginnings, Powerful Impacts

MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS — These last few weeks there have been many positive developments within the Aruban Music and Entertainment Industry. As we know, the renowned and widely known Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival (CSJF) that took place for 12 consecutive years on Aruba, did not take place this year due to limited sponsorship support. The Aruban community did not take this news well and couldn't bear to have it passed, so the organization of the CSJF took a challenge upon them and organized a different type of festival with another name and a different location. On another note, last week we took notice of a tremendous accomplishment for the community of Aruba. The "Leerorkest" Program which currently is being executed in Bijlmer, Amsterdam is starting a pilot program in Aruba this week. Now, Aruban students will get access to music education and development in elementary school. Both the Casibari Jazz Festival and the Aruba "Leerorkest" are remarkable and important developments on the island, in order to strengthen the Aruban Creative Industry and inspire the next generation to appreciate the development benefits of music and art.

The Premier of the Casibari Jazz Festival 2019

It was last week on September 20 and 21, that the CSJF transformed into a two-day Casibari Jazz Festival (CJF) and became a festival to remember, considering its fantastic ambiance and musical talent performance. For those who don't know, the Casibari rock formation is a unique Aruban heritage site with a cozy local feel. For some time now there have been many music performances at this location and the community is appreciating this. In the eyes of the CJF organization team, this was thus an ideal backdrop for a reinvented music festival where Jazz, Blues and Latin music could fill the sultry night air with smooth rhythms. Some time ago I elaborately discussed the positive implications of Music Festivals on the success of the Creative Industry. Even though the CJF was in a smaller setting than before, it is opening a new market for more intimate and heritage-based festivals. This is something we are used to and haven't seen in some time. Some of the artists and musicians that performed last week included AráCaribbean Jazz Sextet, Oruba with Reno Steba, and our local talent Robert JeanD'or who accompanied the great multi-instrumentalist and composer Tony Sucar. Other international acts included Tania Kross from The Netherlands who sang together with Randal Corsen from our neighbor island Curaçao, followed by Count Tutu with Michael Bremon from the US, and lastly, Antonio Bello from Spain. The hopes remain that the CJF will remain and grow in the years to come. Delighting the island with tremendous music and artistic talent, with local and international.

The Aruban "Leerorkest" is Official

Now, with the understanding that music and art are backbones of our culture, it would make sense to think that our children should grow up in the richness of the Aruban culture. A culture that is rich in creativity, artistic expression and diversity. Music education is not common in the Aruban school system. In high school students get access to some forms of artistic development, but because of budget constraints this is also very limiting. Studies have proven that music and art education is vital for a child's personal de-



velopment. Using this train of thought the famous "Leerorkest" was created in Amsterdam. Back in April the representative of the "Leerorkest" in Amsterdam together with a local music teacher, Johny Croes met with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice to consider expanding the program to Aruba. The idea of the program is to provide music education during school hours so that all children, especially for those who can't otherwise can learn to play an instrument. The goals of the program is to fight the challenges communities face and to create a positive impact. Because of the program crime rates have decreased, more children finish their education and get the second chance of developing their talents.

Continued on Page 15



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The Collectables

Continued from Page 14

The Amsterdam "Leerorkest" has been transforming lives of children for over 12 years already. A total of 3000 children at 18 different schools are part of this growing program in the dynamic city of Bijlmer, which is known for being a city with increasing socio-economic challenges. The city has been trying different methods of improving the lives of families and children. Now, because of the "Leerorkest" program, all 18 participating schools have their own orchestra and students from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds are equally represented and are equally provided the opportunity to shine. Interestingly, Curaçao also implemented their own "Leerorkest" program two years ago and they have also seen the positive impacts of it. Now, it is finally Aruba's turn. This week on September 23rd the

pilot program started at four different schools guided by four Aruban music teachers, which include: Jane Lanooij-de Cuba, Mayra Kock-Garrido, Tica Giel and Jaderick Croes. The program will be supervised by Croes himself who is the initiator of the project and has been fighting for this program to become a reality on Aruba. Croes stands by his belief that the Aruba "Leerorkest" will have a big educational, cultural and preventive judicial impact. In the midst of the social crisis Aruba is facing at the moment, we owe it to our young ones to equip them with the opportunities for them to grow and develop themselves. Music and art have proven to help children develop creative kills, innovative skills, problem-solving skills, diversity, open-minded critical thinking, expressive skills, respect, discipline, responsibility, teamwork and unity. All-important characteristics they will



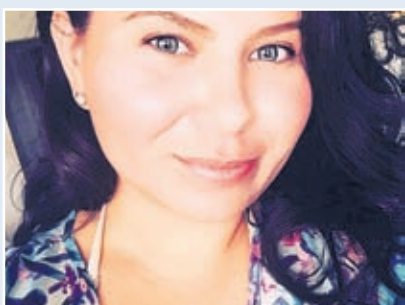
need to succeed in life and on the job market.

Moving Forward

Small beginnings can have powerful impacts on a society. Having setbacks and encountering challenges are what make these evolvments so worth it. More festivals and more children playing instruments are what can solidify the Creative Industry not only now but for the future. The

Creative Islander wishes the CJF all the best with the preparations of the next event. Also, we wish the Aruba "Leerorkest" all the best with the four pilot projects on Aruba.

We extend an encouragement to the Aruban community and all visitors to attend and support these programs and festivals. With our continuous support the Aruban Creative Industry will flourish. □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 24-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Bohemian Restaurant: Tonight live Violinist Angela



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about. Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel king in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. **TONIGHT** has an extra magic: the live Violinist Angela performs! From traditional French and Italian famous melodies to more upbeat pop and rock and roll. A taste for everyone.

A garden full of strong trees and dressed up in New York-style industrial-look elements creates a cosmopolitan vibe while at the same time the tropical breeze and outside dining connect to the Caribbean. Waiters with French barrettes and pant suspenders service you with a happy and loose style with on the background the sounds of underground chill music varied with French classics.

ONLY French owned Restaurant

The French are famous for their culinary art. Bohemian is the **ONLY** French owned restaurant on Aruba and offers you Grande gastronomy in a hip decor. French classics like Coq-au-Vin, Beef tartare, Escargot, Duck Foie Gras Terrine, Bouillabaisse Fish Soup, Tuna-Tartare, Quinoa-Salad, Rib-Eye Butter Maître-D, Crème Brulee, Chocolate Lava Cake and Pineapple Carpaccio are on the menu. Mediterranean inspired dishes like Ras el Hanout Fish Kebbab, Honey and Rosemary Lamb Shank, Moroccan Lamb sausages, Mediterranean Sea Bass and Grilled Local Catch are other finger



licking options. Directly imported wines from wineries in Europe make up for a perfect pairing. You are welcome to enjoy the Happy Hours and Daily Early Birds from 5 to 7 PM. Bon appetite! Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort. □

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian.



HELP US HELP THEM BY BECOMING A FLIGHT VOLUNTEER!

Sgt. Pepper's Friends is a non profit organization based in Aruba. As most of our rescues are adopted to the USA and Canada, we are always looking for flight volunteers to help bring our rescues home. This process is very easy and rewarding! We arrange everything, from booking and paying for the rescue on your flight, to meeting you at the airport with the dog or cat and its papers, supplies and connect you with the adoptive family who will be waiting for you at baggage claim upon arrival. Please email us your flight date, airline and schedule should you want to help bring one of our rescues to their forever home. You can also fill in our flight volunteer form on our website under "Get involved": <http://www.sgtpeppersfriends.com/flight-volunteer-form/>



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Goodwill Ambassadors at the Amsterdam Manor



EAGLE BEACH — Gert van Bruggen and Edwin van der Vuurst from Noord Holland were recently honored as Goodwill Ambassadors due to their 20th consecutive visit to Aruba.

Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony which was held at the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort. They love coming back to Aruba for the beautiful beaches, nature and friendly people. □

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SPORTS



Las Vegas Aces' Kelsey Plum shoots around Washington Mystics' Emma Meesseman during the first half of Game 4 of a WNBA playoff basketball series Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Mystics top Aces 94-90, reach WNBA Finals; LeBron courtside

By W.G. RAMIREZ
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Washington Mystics are heading back to the WNBA Finals, and this time they believe they have the depth and versatility to win it all. Elena Delle Donne scored 25 points, and the Mystics earned a return trip to the championship round, outlasting the Las Vegas Aces 94-90 to close out their semifinal series on Tuesday night with LeBron James sitting courtside. The Mystics, who eliminated the Aces in four games, will host the Connecticut Sun in Game 1 of the Finals on Sunday. Last season, Washington was swept in three games by the Seattle Storm. Emma Meesseman bounced back from her six-point performance in Game 3 by scoring 22 for Washington. Kristi Toliver added 20 and Natasha Cloud chipped in with 11.

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BLUESMEN



St. Louis geared up for challenge of being defending champions

St. Louis Blues Klim Kostin (37), David Perron (57) and Jay Bouwmeester (19) celebrate Perron's winning goal against the Winnipeg Jets in overtime NHL hockey game action in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Friday, Sept. 20, 2019.

Associated Press
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AP Exclusive: Ben Simmons fell in love with basketball again

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Videos of Ben Simmons making jumpers flooded social media over the summer and the All-Star point guard is ready to take his game to another level when the Philadelphia 76ers open camp next week.

"I feel like this summer I fell in love with the game again," Simmons told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I kind of got back to who I was and having fun with the game. I felt like the past season I lost that enjoyment side of it but I feel like this summer has been huge for me. Just the work I've been putting in, I kinda fell in love with putting that work in again and I've been in the gym every day working and the results have been paying off so I'm excited for the season to start."

Simmons, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2016, has helped lead the Sixers to the second round of the NBA playoffs two straight seasons after making his debut in 2017. He was the Rookie of the Year that season and an All-Star for the first time last season. Simmons has averaged 16.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.9 assists and signed a \$170 million, five-year contract extension in July.

Philadelphia is 101-58 in regular-season games when Simmons plays. He has had 22 triple-doubles in the past two seasons, tied for third most in the league with Denver's Nikola Jokic and trailing Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook (59) and the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (26). Simmons also has had 80 double-doubles over the past two seasons.

But the one knock against Simmons has been his reluctance to shoot long jumpers and 3-pointers. He's 0 for 18 from beyond the arc, so defenses often focus on taking away his ability to drive to the basket and dare him to shoot. He's up for the challenge.

"I'm ready to be who I am as a player, continue to develop, keep working," Simmons said. "It's a process. It takes time. Obviously, people always want to see results straightaway but that's not how things work."

Simmons decided to focus on improving his game instead of playing for the Australian team at the FIBA World Cup earlier this month in China. He rediscovered his love for basketball during those long hours in the gym and admitted the criticism weighed on him at times.

"I think sometimes you



In this May 5, 2019, file photo, Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons reacts during the second half of Game 4 of the team's second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Toronto Raptors in Philadelphia.

kind of get too deep into it where you listen to other people which should never be the thing you do unless they're giving you positive feedback or trying to help you get better because there's a lot of negativity out there," Simmons said, pointing to various social media platforms.

"It's huge once you kind of block that out, you don't really care, you kinda go out there feeling free. You don't care if you miss a shot because everyone misses a shot so that's one of the things that I think this summer I got back to how I was as a player just playing and doing what I love at a high level."

Despite being a lightning rod for criticism in Phila-

delphia, Simmons says he enjoys playing in front of a passionate fan base.

"I love being in Philadelphia. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," he said. "I think this is the perfect place for me. I just handle (criticism) how it comes." Simmons heard plenty of boos after a poor performance in Philadelphia's first-round series opener against Brooklyn in April. He had nine points, seven rebounds, and three assists and shot 1 for 5 from the free throw line in a loss. Afterward, Simmons said: "If you're gonna boo, then stay on that side."

Simmons answered with his second career playoff triple-double in Game 2, finishing with 18 points, 12

Associated Press

assists and 10 rebounds as Philadelphia reeled off four straight wins. He looks back at it as a learning experience.

"I had a terrible first game and I loved it when people are tweeting me saying all these negative things because the next game I came out (and played better)," Simmons said. "It kinda fires me up a little." Why does he even pay attention to the critics flexing their keyboard muscles?

"It's hard to avoid. It's hard to not see," Simmons said. "I've done a better job of not watching certain things in terms of what people are saying but that was a good example of people not giving me positive feedback and I had to respond." □

Seattle hires former U.S. team captain Cammi Granato as scout

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Cammi Granato has received plenty of interest in the past from NHL franchises. None of them suited her as well as Seattle's expansion team does. The former U.S. Olympic team captain, gold medalist and Hockey Hall of Famer was hired Wednesday as one of five pro scouts for Seattle's as-yet unnamed franchise, which begins play with the 2021-22 season.

"I've turned down a lot that I kind of wish I could have taken. But this one

was perfect. It fit right," Granato said. "As soon as I heard Seattle was getting a team I had been interested. And (GM Ron Francis) reached out to me, I don't know at what point but not too long ago, and asked about this position. It's just really exciting and it fits really well with my current status, being so close and also being able to pro scout down the street."

Granato, who is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, joins a handful of women working on the hockey operations side of an NHL franchise and

she is the only female pro scout currently in the league. Last year, Toronto hired Hayley Wickenheiser as assistant director of player development and Noelle Needham as an amateur scout.

"I think it's just another way to break barriers, I guess. It's another way to show the momentum that is happening in sport with women being hired in all different capacities. I think that's how I view it," Granato said. "It's more not just about myself but more women getting jobs that they're actually quali-



In this Nov. 6, 2010, file photo, Cammi Granato stands on center ice after being inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame before an NHL game between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Buffalo Sabres in Toronto.

Associated Press

fied for but just haven't been looked at before and now it might change

the mind of people to look at that in a different way in the way Seattle has." □

Blues' last to Stanley Cup run shows value of regular season

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

When the Tampa Bay Lightning woke up on Jan. 3 atop the NHL standings, the St. Louis Blues were dead last.

Tampa had won 31 of its first 39 games, while St. Louis had won just 15 of its first 37. The Lightning staked themselves to 30-point lead on the Blues before the season's halfway mark.

The rest is league history: The Lightning got swept out of the playoffs in the first round, and the Blues went from the basement to lifting the Stanley Cup in triumph. That the Blues struggled for so long and didn't hit their stride until January could make much of the marathon regular season seem pointless, though players suggest it actually shows the importance of ups, downs and adversity during the 82-game grind as a way to prepare to win playoff games.

"You've got to understand in the bigger picture if you're going to have a four, five, six-game losing streak at some point, it's no reason to hit the panic button," said Jonathan Toews, who won the Cup as Chicago Blackhawks captain in 2010, 2013 and 2015. "You almost have to go through that so when playoffs do come around, you're ready to turn that switch and you've got that energy and you've got that confidence that if you work, you're going to get the results for it."

Players who watched all four division champions bow out in the first round and the Blues grind to the first title in franchise history came away with some important lessons on how to approach the regular season. St. Louis showed a mid-season coaching change can work, a goalie can come out of nowhere and have success, and momentum can snowball in a positive direction.

"It was good at understanding that it's a roller coaster, and the more you can stay even keel and keep staying with things and keep pushing each other to think that some-



In this June 12, 2019, file photo, St. Louis Blues head coach Craig Berube carries the Stanley Cup after the Blues defeated the Boston Bruins in Game 7 of the NHL Stanley Cup Final, in Boston. The NHL 2019-20 regular season begins Oct. 2.

Associated Press

times things will change, you'll get a bounce and things will start to go your way," Blues playoff MVP Ryan O'Reilly said. "It was very awful at the start. We couldn't seem to string wins together. But guys kept working. Guys didn't shut down. They kept working for each other and the next thing you know, things started to change. Once that belief happened, it kind of steamrolled."

Tampa Bay wound up on the flip side having not lost more than two games in a row all season and lacking the struggles to draw from when things went poorly in the playoffs. They went four and out against Columbus. "We were good in the regular season and probably thought we'll be all right in the playoffs because we were good in the regular season," Vezina Trophy winning Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy said. "The regular season was great. We were on a good run. In the playoffs, I think our tank was empty because of that and we just went straight down be-

cause of that."

The Lightning tied the NHL record with 62 victories and finished 21 points ahead of the next-closest team. They also became the 10th Presidents' Trophy winners in 11 tries to fall short of winning the Stanley Cup.

All of which supports the belief that standings and seeding matters little in the playoffs, where matchups take precedence. It also apparently doesn't matter where a team is at by Thanksgiving or New Year's Day, which used to be important markers about who will make the postseason.

"We started well and we ended bad," said Jack Eichel, whose Sabres went on a 10-game winning streak, were first in the league at Thanksgiving and missed the playoffs. "You look at St. Louis and they did the complete opposite. It's a long season, and a lot goes into it. Consistency is one of the most important things in this league."

Is it, though? The Blues didn't put together a winning streak longer than two

until mid-January. They got a boost from rookie goalie Jordan Binnington, tied a franchise record with 11 consecutive victories and became the poster boys for coming together at the right time.

"It's just something to rally behind," Dallas Stars goaltender Ben Bishop said. "Usually that's kind of what it comes down to. Something happens, and usually a team rallies behind it."

For Vegas in 2017-18, it was the hometown shooting that killed 58 people and bonded an expansion hockey team with its community. The Golden Knights shocked the league by winning eight of their first nine games of existence and reached the Cup Final before losing to Washington. For St. Louis, Laura Brannigan's "Gloria" became a popular rallying cry and young fan Laila Anderson battling a rare autoimmune disease was a heartwarming touchstone for the players as they made their run under Craig Berube, who was an interim coach until the celebra-

tions had begun.

Rallying points are impossible to predict, and there's no way to control when and how a group comes together. Still, general managers, coaches and players are always searching for that recipe of how to peak at the right time.

"You want to keep climbing," said goaltender Tuukka Rask, whose Boston Bruins pushed St. Louis to Game 7 of the Cup Final. "I don't think you want to peak early and then slowly decline from there. That's what everybody's looking for. But you're just trying to make the playoffs, always. You're just trying to make the playoffs on a good note and not feeling like, 'Oh, we dodged a bullet here. We barely made it.' And then you're kind of starting the playoffs not knowing what your game's going to look like. You want to be feeling great as a team entering the playoffs."

Toews pointed out a hot start never hurts. Points banked in October, November and December count just the same. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster.

Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba

Mystics

Continued from Page 17

"Beating a team like that to get to the Finals, we had to earn it," Washington coach Mike Thibault said. "I thought they had some great performances tonight, and obviously we did, too."

Thibault said three keys for his team were Meesseman returning to her role as a reserve, LaToya Sanders for "absorbing the beating that she had to take defending someone like Liz (Cambage)," and Delle Donne for defense on A'ja Wilson, who had a career-low four shot attempts.

"That's what makes a championship team, that's the makeup, it's everybody doing their part," Toliver said. "Everybody knows their role. Not everybody can be a chief, we gotta have Indians, too. And we got a great group of Indians — the best in the league." Cambage, who suggested the Mystics needed to "get

in the weight room" to deal with her physical play, led the Aces with 25 points and 12 rebounds. WNBA Sixth Woman of the Year Dearica Hamby had 18 points and 11 rebounds while Kelsey Plum scored 17.

But it was the absence of Wilson's opportunities that hindered the Aces in key moments, including the fourth quarter, when she didn't attempt a shot.

Las Vegas erased a seven-point deficit and closed the third quarter on a 15-7 run that included five points each from Plum and Hamby and gave the Aces a 68-67 lead.

League MVP Delle Donne and Meesseman took over in the fourth quarter. They scored 21 of Washington's 26 points in the period to seal the win. Hamby had a chance to tie the game with 3.4 seconds left but missed a 3-pointer from the corner. "Our main focus was just to get defensive stops and we know our



Washington Mystics' Elena Delle Donne shoots against Las Vegas Aces' Dearica Hamby during the second half of Game 4 of a WNBA playoff basketball series Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, in Las Vegas.

offense goes from there," Meesseman said. "That was pretty much the only thing we were saying in the huddles."

The Mystics held the Aces to 9 of 20 shooting in the fourth quarter. Washington shot 10 of 19 from the field in the fourth, with Delle Donne and Meesseman combining to make 9 of 12. "When you have to be a big-time player in big-time games, the more times you do it, the better you get,"

Thibault said. "I thought we stayed calm down the stretch. We got up seven, they made a great run, came right back at us, gave up a lead twice in the second half and we stuck with it. ... To win these kinds of games you gotta have guts and you gotta have emotion, but you've also gotta have some calmness when everything is crazy. "I thought we showed some calmness late in the game." Las Vegas built

a 10-point lead midway through the second quarter, but the Mystics quickly turned things around. Toliver, Delle Donne, Cloud and Meesseman scored consecutive buckets to ignite a 16-4 run that closed the half and gave the Mystics a 45-43 lead at the break. Washington carried its momentum into the second half when Toliver opened the quarter with a 3-pointer in front of the Aces bench and went on to score 10 of the Mystics' first 15 points in the third.

TIP-INS

Mystics: It won't show on the stat sheet, but Aerial Powers gave Washington the support it needed, including a spark just before its second-quarter run. Powers, who finished with seven points and five rebounds in 16 minutes, stood her ground against a driving Hamby and took the charge on the baseline with 5:40 left, with the Aces leading 34-27. The Mystics outscored Las Vegas 18-9 from there. □



Wentz, Eagles look to get back on track against 3-0 Packers

By KEITH JENKINS

AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) —

Only one team in the Super Bowl era — the 2001 New England Patriots — started the season 1-3 and rebounded to win it all.

Despite that fact, the Philadelphia Eagles (1-2) aren't panicking after back-to-back losses.

"You know, we're not really looking at this as a bad spot," Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz said. "We're 1-2, yeah, but, you know, we have a lot of the season left. (There are) little things here and there in each game that we know we're going to get corrected and we're going to be in a good spot. And like I said, we're excited Thursday night to go show what we can do and get going back in the win column."

Wentz and the Eagles will head to Green Bay to face the Packers (3-0) for the first Thursday night meeting between the two teams.

Philadelphia lost its past two games by a combined seven points, but help is on the way with Alshon Jeffery. The former Pro Bowl receiver is expected to play after missing all but six snaps over the past two weeks with a calf injury.

"I miss it a lot, man," Jeffery said. "One or two plays, we're still in the game. At the same time, it's good to face adversity. One and two is not where we wanted to start, but that's where we're at. Hey, I'm up for the challenge."

WHERE'S DAVANTE?

Another receiver looking to make an impact on Thursday is Packers wide-out Davante Adams. After grabbing a career-high 13 touchdowns last year, the two-time Pro Bowler has yet to cross the goal line this season. But Adams hasn't



Philadelphia Eagles' Carson Wentz walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Philadelphia.

been thinking much about his lack of scoring, as he and his wife, Devanne Villarreal, welcomed baby girl Deija Leigh Adams on Sept. 20.

"It's been a lot, but now I'm playing for a stronger purpose than I was before," Adams said. "So it's a great feeling. It's something that you've just got to feel. It's tough to talk about."

Adams has five touchdown receptions in seven Thursday games, including four in his past five Thursday matchups.

WHERE'S THE RUSH?

The Eagles only have two sacks in two games and none from their edge rushers. One came from safety

Andrew Sendejo on a blitz. The other was from tackle Tim Jernigan, who is out with a broken foot. Veteran Brandon Graham got \$27 million in guaranteed money to remain in Philly after only getting four sacks last season. Michael Bennett, who had nine, was traded to New England.

Chris Long, who had 6½, wasn't brought back so he retired. Derek Barnett, a 2017 first-round pick, had no hits on quarterback Matthew Stafford last week. "I know how the sacks go," Graham said. "It's a long season and you never know how stuff ends.

There's going to be some funny stuff that will be hap-

pening and I'm hoping we're on the good side of it. The only thing I'm worried about is to make sure that we don't separate from each other, which I doubt we'll do."

DEFENSE FIRST

While the Eagles are struggling to get to the passer, the Packers are having very few issues defensively. Green Bay's four interceptions and 12 sacks are each tied for third most in the league.

Preston Smith and Za'Darius Smith combined for eight total tackles, six quarterback hits, five sacks and a forced fumble in the Packers' win over the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

AARON WANTS MORE

Green Bay enters with the 28th-ranked offense. That's not good enough for the Packers' two-time MVP quarterback.

"We've never wanted to just manage the football game around here, so the standards are very high for us," Aaron Rodgers said. "We gotta play a lot better on offense. We've played some good defenses, no doubt about it, but the standard and the expectations are very high here and we haven't met them on offense. ... At some point, we can't expect our defense to shut everybody down. They have been. But at some point the offense is going to have to wake up and start making some plays."

DROPPED PASSES

Wentz had eight of his passes dropped against the Lions, including a deep ball to J.J. Arcega-Whiteside that could've been the go-ahead score in the final minute. A week earlier, Nelson Agholor dropped what could've been a go-ahead 60-yard TD with under two minutes left in a 24-20 loss at Atlanta.

"It's part of the game. Guys are going to drop passes," Wentz said. "We're going to put the ball on the ground. I'm going to throw picks. We're going to miss reads. Things happen. Guys make mistakes.

Any time somebody drops a pass or something like that, I make sure I go right up to them and tell them it's coming their way the next time and just try to keep building them up. Staying positive. Again, it's frustrating.

No one wants to make mistakes but there's nothing you can really do about it. Just have to keep building those guys up." □

Twins beat Tigers, Odorizzi OK after hamstring cramp

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Williams Astudillo and Eddie Rosario fueled a four-run seventh inning, and Minnesota dodged an injury scare for starter Jake Odorizzi to move closer to an AL Central title.

Odorizzi (15-7) pitched two-hit ball through six innings but was pulled with a tight left hamstring after warming up for the seventh. He later said he had a cramp and expected to be fine.

The Twins improved to 97-60, their most victories since going 98-64 in 1970. Minnesota's magic number to clinch the division is two over Cleveland. Taylor Rogers pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save.

Detroit (46-110) reached 110 losses for the second time, 16 years after setting the AL record of 119. With one more loss or a win by Baltimore, the club would be assured the No. 1 pick in next year's amateur draft. Spencer Turnbull (3-16) allowed two runs — both scoring after he left the game — on six hits and two walks in six-plus innings.

RAYS 2, YANKEES 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Ji-Man Choi hit a game-ending home run in the 12th inning that helped Tampa Bay remain on track for an AL wild card berth after New York's CC Sabathia pitched a perfect inning in his first regular season relief appearance.

Choi homered off Cory Gearrin (1-3) after Pete Fairbanks (2-3) struck out Brett Gardner with a runner on second and two outs in the top half.

Tampa Bay remained a half-game ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild card.

Sabathia, a 39-year-old left-hander who is retiring at the end of the season, had made 560 regular season starts but is being moved to the bullpen along with J.A. Happ ahead of the post-season.

INDIANS 11, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP) — José Ramírez hit a grand slam and a three-run homer in his first two plate appearances after missing a month with a broken hand,



Minnesota Twins pitcher Jake Odorizzi watches a throw to a Detroit Tigers batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

and Cleveland pounded Chicago.

Roberto Pérez and Óscar Mercado also went deep for the Indians, who won for the sixth time in seven games to remain a half-game back of Tampa Bay for the second AL wild card. Mike Clevinger (13-3) pitched seven innings of five-hit ball and struck out 10 while extending his scoreless streak to 18 innings.

The switch-hitting Ramírez homered from both sides for the fourth time. He finished with a career-best seven RBIs. Batting left-handed, Ramírez drove a 3-1 pitch from Carson Fulmer (1-2) into the right-field stands with two outs in the first inning for his second career grand slam.

ASTROS 3, MARINERS 0

SEATTLE (AP) — Gerrit Cole won his 15th consecutive decision, striking out 14 and walking none while pitching two-hit ball over seven innings to lead Houston.

Cole (19-5) is unbeaten in 21 starts since losing to the Chicago White Sox on May 22. He is on the longest streak of consecutive winning decisions since Toronto's Roy Halladay was 15-0 during an 18-start span in 2003. Cole set an Astros season record with 316 strikeouts, three more than J.R. Richard's total in 1979, and established a team record with his eighth straight

game of double-digit strikeouts.

Ryan Pressley and Roberto Osuna finished a four-hitter, the Astros' 12th shutout this season. Osuna worked around a leadoff single for his 37th save in 43 chances. Alex Bregman hit his 40th homer, a fourth-inning drive off Tommy Milone (4-10). Aledmys Diaz had an RBI double in the seventh and scored when Josh Reddick grounded into a forceout.

ANGELS 3, ATHLETICS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Homer Bailey lost for the first time in eight starts and Oakland suffered a setback in its postseason pursuit. The A's let their lead for the top AL wild card drop to a half-game over Tampa Bay and one game over Cleveland. Their magic number to clinch a playoff spot remained at five with five games left.

David Fletcher had three hits and Albert Pujols drove in his 2,075th run to help the Angels end a seven-game skid. Dillon Peters (4-3) allowed two runs in five innings.

Khris Davis hit his 23rd homer of the season, but the A's lost consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Bailey (13-9) allowed three runs and eight hits in five innings.

RED SOX 12, RANGERS 10

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Eduardo Rodríguez labored through five innings

a winning record while the Rangers (75-82), who opened their final home stand before moving into a new stadium next year, will have their third straight losing season. Brandon Workman, the fourth Boston reliever, worked the ninth for his 16th save in 22 chances. Ariel Jurado (7-11) allowed four runs in three relief innings.

ROYALS 9, BRAVES 6

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — In Kansas City's first game after manager Ned Yost announced he will retire after the season, the lowly Royals burst to a six-run lead in the first three innings and beat NL East champion Atlanta behind three hits and two RBIs from Nicky Lopez. Danny Duffy (7-6) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings, improving to 2-1 in his last six starts.

Julio Teheran (10-11) gave up six runs and six hits in 2 1/3 innings. He has lost three straight starts, giving up 14 earned runs in 11 1/3 innings. □



Cincinnati Reds' Kyle Farmer strikes out to Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Josh Hader, ending a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

Whiff! MLB sets strikeout record for 12th straight season

By The Associated Press

Major League Baseball has set its season strikeout record for the 12th straight season.

Batters struck out 369 times Tuesday to raise the season total to 41,467. That topped the 41,207 of last season with five days to spare.

After topping hits for the first time in 2018, strikeouts are ahead again. There were 40,883 hits through Tuesday. Last year finished with 41,018 hits.

Strikeouts broke 40,000 for the first time in 2017, when there were 40,104.

Before the record run started in 2008, the mark had been 32,404 in 2001. Strikeouts totaled 29,937 in 1996 before reaching the 30,000 for the first time the following year.

MLB also set a record for home runs this season. The league entered Tuesday with 6,550, surpassing the mark of 6,105 set in 2017. □

Turner's slam helps Nats sweep Phils, clinch wild card

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trea Turner's go-ahead grand slam lifted Washington to a 6-5 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies for a doubleheader sweep Tuesday that helped the Nationals clinch an NL wild card, capping quite a turnaround for a team that was 19-31 in late May.

Turner had three hits in the day's first game, a 4-1 win for the Nationals.

Washington assured itself of returning to the playoffs for the fifth time in eight years after sitting out October in 2018.

Anthony Rendon delivered two sacrifice flies to raise his majors-leading RBIs total to 124 in the opening victory, a result that also eliminated Philadelphia and \$330 million outfielder Bryce Harper, the ex-Nationals star, from postseason contention.

In the nightcap, Washington trailed 4-2 entering the sixth, because Brad Miller managed to hit two homers off Max Scherzer (11-7). Washington loaded the bases in the sixth against Aaron Nola (12-7) with two walks and a single, setting the stage for Turner's 18th homer of the season and second career slam, which came off Jared Hughes.

In the first game, Tanner Rainey (2-3) struck out two in a 1-2-3 sixth for the win in the makeup of a June 18 rainout.

Nick Vincent (1-4) took the loss in the first game.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, CARDINALS 2, 19 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP) — Ildemaro Vargas had a game-tying pinch-hit homer in the ninth inning and then singled with the bases loaded in the 19th at 1:34 a.m. local time to lift Arizona past St. Louis.

Carson Kelly and Nick Ahmed started the final rally with back-to-back singles off John Brebbia (3-4), who was the Cardinals' 11th pitcher of the night. Jarrod Dyson and Robbie Ray — a pitcher who had to pinch hit — struck out before Christian Walker was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Then it was Vargas' turn to be the hero again, smack-

ing a single — his fourth hit of the game — through the left side of the infield. He raised his hands as players rushed the field to cel-

brate. They've won 16 of 18, positioning themselves for one of the NL wild cards along with Washington.

rates sent 13 batters to the plate in the seventh as they chased starter Kyle Hendricks (11-10) and erased a 1-0 deficit. Pittsburgh

walk from Adam Conley (2-10) in the 11th, and Brigham hit Amed Rosario with a 97 mph fastball.

A wild pitch advanced both runners before Todd Frazier was intentionally walked. One out later, Nimmo walked on a 3-1 pitch to force in the winning run. Paul Sewald (1-1), the seventh Mets pitcher, struck out two in a perfect inning for his first major league win in his 119th appearance.

DODGERS 6, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Max Muncy hit his first career grand slam and Los Angeles clinched home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs even before it beat staggering San Diego. The seven-time NL West champion Dodgers (101-56) locked up home field when the two-time NL East champion Atlanta Braves (96-62) lost 9-6 at Kansas City.

Muncy's 34th home run was a moon shot to right field on the first pitch by Gerardo Reyes with two outs in the fourth.

Reyes came on after rookie Ronald Bolaños (0-2) walked Will Smith, allowed a single to reliever Tony Gonsolin and walked Joc Pederson.

Gonsolin (4-2) pitched two perfect innings in relief of Rich Hill, with three strikeouts. Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for his 31st save.

ROCKIES 8, GIANTS 5, 16 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Colorado and San Francisco combined to use a major league-record 25 pitchers, and Charlie Blackmon hit a three-run homer in the 16th inning to end it. The game lasted 5 hours, 31 minutes, with Giants manager Bruce Bochy making 12 pitching changes — hardly taking it easy in his final week on the job. Blackmon's first hit of the night came in his eighth plate appearance and off Dereck Rodriguez (6-10) for his 31st home run.

Both clubs left the bases loaded in the 11th, and Colorado stranded 15 baserunners.

Sam Howard (2-0) pitched the final two innings for the win. □



Washington Nationals' Trea Turner, second from right, celebrates with teammates Howie Kendrick, from left, Victor Robles and Asdrubal Cabrera after batting them in on a grand slam in the sixth inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Philadelphia Phillies, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

eborate.

The game last 6 hours and 53 minutes and featured 24 pitchers and 48 strikeouts, with both teams plowing through bullpen arms thanks to September's expanded rosters. The Diamondbacks used a franchise-record 30 players. It was the longest game by innings and time in Chase Field history.

Kevin Ginkel (3-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. St. Louis had its lead in the NL Central cut to 2 1/2 games over Milwaukee. The Cardinals have four games remaining, while the Brewers have five.

BREWERS 4, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Ryan Braun added to his record total of homers at Great American Ball Park, and Milwaukee moved a step closer to a wild-card berth with its fifth win in a row.

Just like last season, when Milwaukee put on a late rush to take the NL Central title, the Brewers have closed in on a playoff spot

They can clinch Wednesday with a win or losses by the Cubs and Mets.

Braun connected for his 21st homer off Sonny Gray (11-8), making the final start of his All-Star season. Braun's 27 homers at Great American are the most by a visiting player.

Brent Suter (4-0) allowed three hits in three relief innings. Josh Hader allowed a pair of hits in the ninth before fanning Kyle Farmer for his 36th save in 42 chances.

PIRATES 9, CUBS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Free-falling Chicago committed five errors, including two in a seven-run seventh inning, and moved to the brink of elimination with its seventh straight loss.

Chicago dropped to 82-75 and would be eliminated with one more loss or Milwaukee win.

The Cubs have not missed the playoffs since 2014.

Aided by a fielding error by second baseman Ben Zobrist and errant throw by reliever Danny Hultzen, the Pi-

stopped a nine-game losing streak in which it had been outscored 87-26.

Francisco Liriano (5-3) pitched a perfect seventh. Pittsburgh rookie Mitch Keller gave up one run and seven hits in five innings.

METS 5, MARLINS 4, 11 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP) — Three outs from postseason elimination, New York tied it 4-all in the ninth when Michael Conforto clocked his second two-run homer of the game, connecting off José Ureña for his 33rd long ball of the season. Brandon Nimmo won it by working a bases-loaded walk in the 11th against rookie Jeff Brigham.

After wins by Washington and Milwaukee earlier in the day, the Mets needed a victory to stay in the playoff race.

They are tied with the plummeting Chicago Cubs, five games behind the Brewers for the second NL wild card with five to play.

Conforto drew a leadoff

Green gaming: Video game firms make climate promises at U.N.

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Gaming is going green — and some of the biggest game companies hope players will, too.

The companies behind PlayStation, Xbox, Angry Birds, Minecraft, Twitch and other video games and platforms pledged Monday at the U.N. to level up efforts to fight climate change and get their throngs of users involved.

The promises range from planting trees to reducing plastic packaging, from making game devices more energy efficient to incorporating environmental themes into the games themselves.

"I believe games and gamers can be a force for social change and would love to see our global community unite to help our planet to survive and thrive," Sony Interactive Entertainment CEO Jim Ryan said on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly gathering of world leaders.

Ryan said Sony's plans include outfitting the next-generation PlayStation system with a low-power, suspend-play mode. He said if 1 million players use it, they could save enough electricity to power 1,000 average U.S. homes.

Some games already are



In this Nov. 3, 2017, photo, visitors play FIFA 18 video game on Playstation 4 Pro (PS4) at the Paris Games Week in Paris.

set in drowning coastal cities, educate children about wildlife or otherwise address environmental issues. Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon anointed the Angry Birds character Red as an "honorary ambassador for green" in 2016.

But the idea of gaming green got new visibility with Monday's commitments from 21 companies, facilitated by the U.N. Environment Program and showcased against the backdrop of Monday's U.N. climate summit.

With an estimate of more

than 2 billion video game players globally, "this is the most powerful mobilization channel in the world," David Paul, the Marshall Islands' environment minister, told the gaming CEOs. His low-lying Pacific island homeland faces an existential threat from rising seas as the planet warms. The "Playing for the Planet" pledges come from an industry that isn't always seen as nurturing societal good. Parents and psychologists have fretted for years about games and other digital diversions sucking youths

into staring at screens. The U.N.'s World Health Organization this year recommended no more than an hour of screen time a day for children under 5, and none at all for those under 1.

Gaming company leaders say that not all screen time is of equal value. They believe their products can engage players on such serious issues as climate change.

"We try to provide entertainment with substance," Clark Stacey, CEO of WildWorks, said in an interview.

Associated Press

Among the initiatives:

—WildWorks intends to incorporate new materials about habitat restoration and reforestation into its children's game Animal Jam, and to plant a tree for every new Animal Jam player.

—Microsoft plans to make 825,000 Xbox consoles that are carbon-neutral — or don't cause any net increases in heat-trapping carbon dioxide — and to promote real-life sustainability activities through its massive-selling game Minecraft.

—Angry Birds maker Rovio Entertainment is offsetting carbon emissions generated by each of its daily, active players charging one mobile device per day for a year.

—Game streaming giant Twitch, owned by Amazon, intends to spread sustainability messages through its platform.

—Google's upcoming Stadia streaming service is financing research on how people can be inspired to change their behavior through games.

"They're participatory. They require the player to take action. It's not just absorbing a message from the outside," said Erin Hoffman-John, Stadia's lead designer for research and development. □

Google wins case over EU's 'right to be forgotten' rules

By RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Handing Google a major victory, the European Union's highest court ruled Tuesday that the EU's "right to be forgotten" rules that allow people to control what comes up when their name is searched online do not apply outside the 28-nation bloc.

Over the past five years, people in Europe have had the right to ask Google and other search engines to delete links to outdated or embarrassing information about themselves, even if it is true.

More recently, France's privacy regulator wanted the rule applied to all of



This Nov. 1, 2018, file photo shows a photo of the Google logo at their offices in Granary Square, London.

Associated Press

Google's search engines, even those outside Europe. But the European Court of Justice declared there is "no obligation under EU law for a search engine op-

erator" to abide by the rule beyond the EU.

It said, however, that a search engine operator must put measures in place to discourage internet us-

ers from going outside the EU to find the deleted information. The decision highlighted the growing tension between privacy and the public's right to know and underscored the difficulties in enforcing different jurisdictions' rules when it comes to the borderless internet. It also illustrated the way the internet is regulated more heavily in Europe than in the U.S., where authorities are constrained by the First Amendment guarantee of free speech and freedom of the press.

The U.S. has no laws equivalent to Europe's "right to be forgotten" measure.

Peter Fleischer, Google's senior privacy counsel, welcomed the ruling and

added that the U.S. internet search giant has worked hard "to strike a sensible balance between people's rights of access to information and privacy."

Those who wanted to see the rule extended beyond the EU argued that on the internet it is easy to switch between national versions of Google's website — from google.fr to google.com, for example — to find missing information.

Since Google started handling "right to be forgotten" requests in 2014, it has deleted about 1.3 million web links from its search results, or 45% of all requests processed, according to the company's transparency report. □

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pool, jacuzzi, gym &
outdoor kitchen

\$575.000.00



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Condo.

\$750.000.00



Oceania Residence # 513
2Bed/2Bath Ocean front
Penthouse condo w/ jacuzzi
& private roof top patio

Millennial Money: Sneaky ways burnout hurts your bottom line

By **AMRITA JAYAKUMAR**
Associated Press

Millennials are a burned-out bunch. Millennial workers are more likely than older generations to report being burned out at work, according to a 2018 Gallup study. The gig economy, the temptations of social media and the high expectations millennials have of themselves contribute to this trend, behavioral finance experts say.

Add to that record student debt levels, the cost of health care, slow wage growth and little work-life balance, and you have a recipe for emotional exhaustion. "Millennials have this double whammy of anxiety coupled with a really strong work ethic," says Kit Yarrow, a consumer psychologist and professor emerita at Golden Gate University. "Before they even get started, millennials approach their tasks in life with a (base) level of anxiety, which depletes their resources for managing stress."

This is not to say "adulting" is especially difficult for this generation, or to assume that all millennials are struggling. But understanding how burnout harms financial decision-making can help you or a loved one break through it and achieve goals.

BURNOUT TRICKS THE MIND

Burnout isn't the same as stress.

The World Health Organization, which added burnout



In this June 21, 2019, file photo commuters walk through a corridor in the World Trade Center Transportation Hub in New York.

to its handbook of recognized health conditions this year, says symptoms include "feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion; increased mental distance from one's job, or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job; and reduced professional efficacy." Burnout is linked to your job, but it can also affect your financial decisions outside of work in the following ways:

— **YOU PAY MORE FOR CONVENIENCE.** You could be spending money regularly on takeout, Uber rides or grocery delivery, for example.

People are often willing to pay more for convenience because they're exhausted — from working

multiple jobs, long hours or being available for work all the time — and because it makes mundane tasks easier, says Theresa Stevens, 26, a financial coach who works with millennials at Declutter Your Money in Providence, Rhode Island.

— **YOU SPLURGE AS A REWARD.** "Treat yourself" isn't just a hashtag; it can be a coping mechanism. When it comes to rewarding ourselves, "our mind tricks us into taking us off the hook," Yarrow says.

"You might think: I already have student loans and credit card debt and my rent is half my income so I might as well go out and eat, because what difference will it really make?" Stevens says.

Social networks and the ease of online shopping make it harder to resist temptation, says Mariel Beasley, co-founder of the Common Cents Lab, a behavioral science research lab at Duke University that focuses on improving financial well-being for low- and middle-income households.

HOW TO BREAK THROUGH BURNOUT

You can't fix the economy or wish away debt. But by recognizing burnout, you can make things easier on yourself. Here's how:

— **KNOW YOUR "WHY."** Your values motivate you when you're paying off debt or saving money for a dream vacation. They can also help you priori-

tize what you're willing to spend money on and cut back on.

Values aren't the same as goals. Paying off a credit card is a goal, but achieving financial freedom is a value, Stevens says.

— **BUDGET STRATEGICALLY.** Budgeting isn't about cutting out the small things that give you joy, like the occasional Uber or your latte habit. Taking a big step to save money — think moving into a cheaper living situation, refinancing your student loans or canceling subscriptions — is more sustainable in the long run than, say, resolving to eat out less, Beasley says.

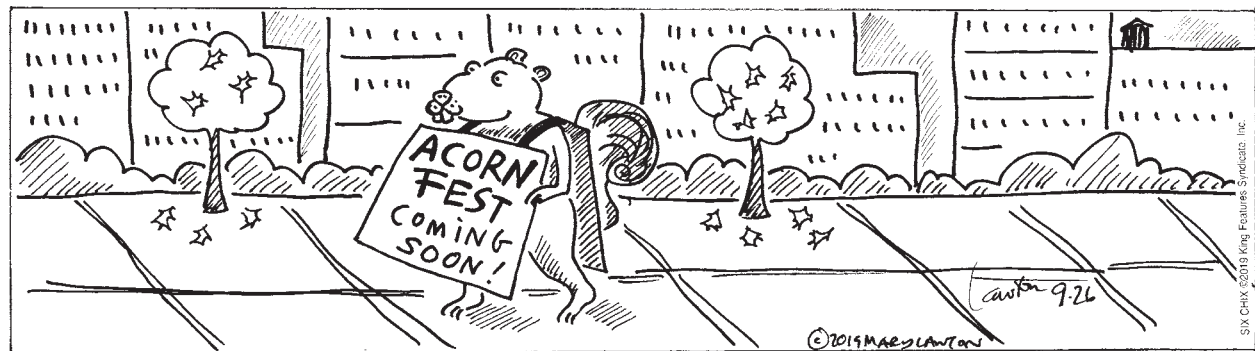
"Every day when you're making a decision to spend less, it's hard to keep going," she says. "We naturally bounce back to our old habits." After you've identified your values, a budget is a tool to help you live them. The 50/30/20 budget, which divides spending into needs, wants and savings, is a good place to start.

— **CHANNEL MONEY MOTIVATION:** When you're feeling motivated, take a one-time action that will save you effort, Beasley says. Set up a small transfer — perhaps 5% of your income — to a savings account so the money is out of sight, out of mind. Or cut up a credit card (but don't close the account) to make it a little harder — but not impossible — to buy things you don't value. □

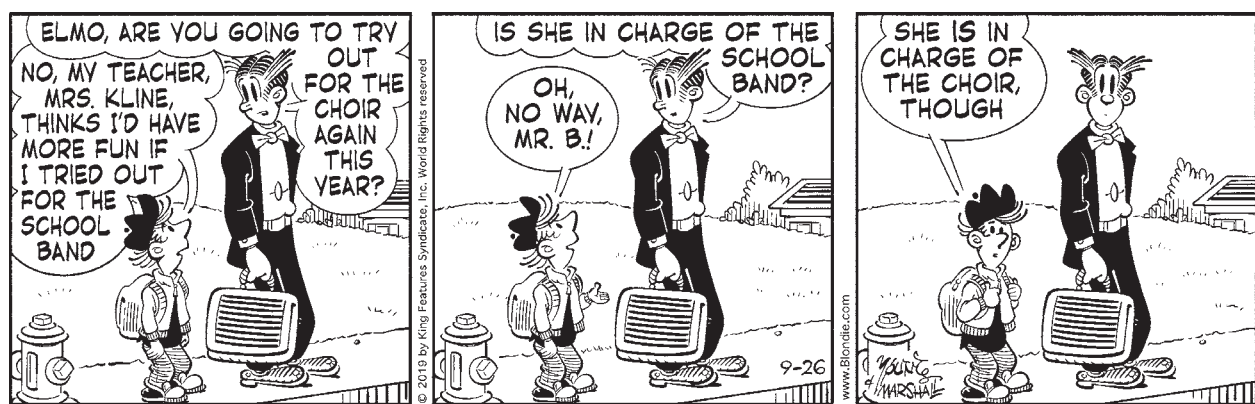
Mutts



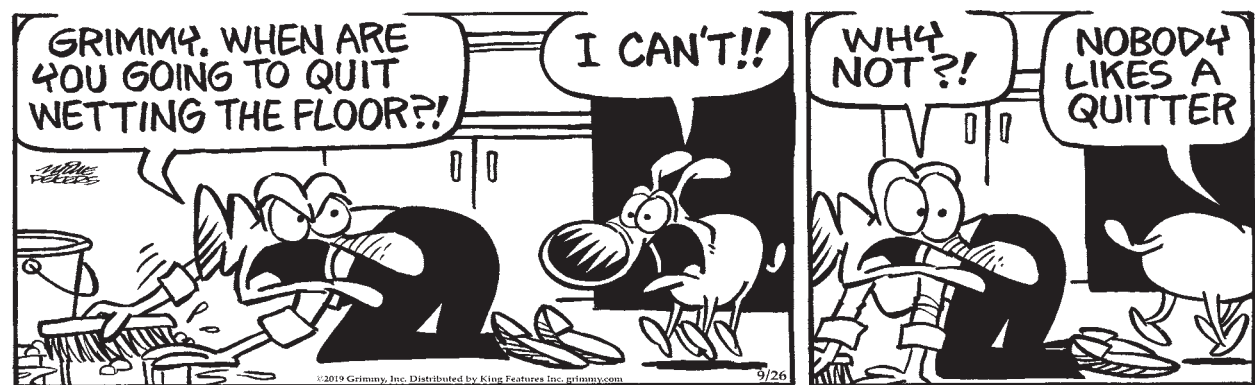
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7	8		4		2	
1						5		
	6		7					3
5						2		6
			9					
7		6						9
9				3		7		
		8						4
	2		9		6	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★

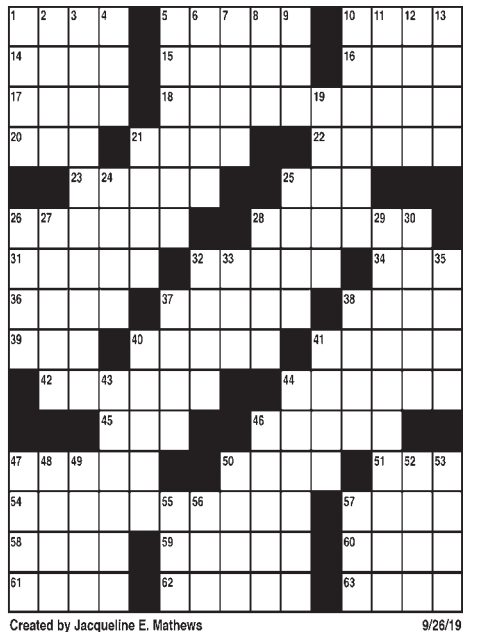
9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	9	2	5	6	4	7	3	8
5	3	4	1	7	8	6	9	2
6	7	8	2	9	3	4	1	5
4	5	3	7	8	2	9	6	1
7	8	1	9	3	6	5	2	4
2	6	9	4	1	5	8	7	3
9	4	7	3	5	1	2	8	6
8	1	5	6	2	7	3	4	9
3	2	6	8	4	9	1	5	7

- ACROSS
- Give the cold shoulder to
 - Bank vaults
 - Ignore with contempt
 - Casino game
 - Old saying
 - French father
 - Cast-__ skillet
 - Mixture
 - One of the 7 Dwarfs
 - Actress
 - Winningham
 - Valentine's Day gift, perhaps
 - Make butter
 - Stir-fry pan
 - May Alcott
 - Deep narrow valley
 - Mac maker
 - Street talk
 - Solemn promise
 - Bride's accessory
 - British fellow
 - Alpha's follower
 - "Chances __", Johnny Mathis hit
 - Navajo or Paiute
 - Gave a hoot
 - Skittful
 - Rose __; New Year's event
 - Ram's mate
 - Old French currency
 - In good __; physically fit
 - Money given to a borrower
 - Little child
 - Blood analysis site
 - On __; prompt
 - Raw minerals
 - Polka or twist
 - Gung ho
 - Broad
 - Derisive smile
 - __ away; escapes



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/26/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	D	O	S	I	C	K	S	H	O	W
E	V	E	N	S	P	O	P	E	L	O	V
R	E	C	A	P	U	N	R	E	F	I	N
I	N	E	A	R	N	I	N	E	R	S	
L	A	N	D	S	N	A	G				
P	S	E	U	D	S	E	T	S	U	P	
E	A	R	N	S	G	L	O	S	S	N	A
S	L	A	T	C	O	I	F	S	M	A	Y
T	A	T	B	A	L	S	A	M	I	T	E
D	E	M	A	N	D	M	E	L	T	E	D
A	S	A	V	I	L	L	A				
P	L	A	C	I	D	I	D	O	C	O	D
A	U	D	A	C	I	O	U	S	N	E	H
C	L	A	W	A	L	S	O	S	S	W	E
E	L	M	S	N	E	A	R	E	D	G	Y

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9/26/19

- DOWN
- Lose traction on an icy road
 - Long sandwich
 - Vacant
 - Prefix for profit or stop

- African desert
- Embellish
- __ away; disappear gradually
- Custard ingredient
- Observe
- Eerie
- Actor Beatty & others
- Egg on
- Flying insects
- Part of a fork
- Think deeply
- Bunker __; 1775 battle site
- Dwindle
- Mount St. Helens' output
- La Scala production
- Bakery purchase
- Hyper
- Famous
- Skirt opening
- Bowl clumsily
- Get just one's feet wet
- French cheese

- Dobbin's home
- Pisa attraction
- James or Scott
- Slumber; rest
- Hail Mary, e.g.
- Compel
- As __ as molasses
- "Mata __"; Greta Garbo film
- Not up yet
- "The __ Ranger"
- Fail to include
- Kennedy & Koppel
- Billboards
- Fawn's color
- Child's running game

Yes, there is an art to the perfectly peeled egg

By **ELIZABETH KARMEI**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — I love eating deviled eggs and egg salad, but I had been avoiding making either because it was so much trouble peeling the eggs. I researched the subject online and tried many of the techniques that promised perfectly smooth eggs. I even went so far as to purchase an egg holder for my pressure cooker. None of these "a-ha" techniques were any better than the way I've always boiled eggs.

Peeling them was a struggle, and they were left looking pockmarked and homely.

Then this summer, I visited my friend Kirsten. She had a dozen perfectly peeled eggs in her refrigerator. I thought maybe she had succumbed to buying the mass-market boiled and peeled eggs. But no.

Her secret — which I'm now revealing — is that you crack the egg on the bottom (that's the egg's larger side, while the top is the more pointed side). I had always cracked my hard-boiled eggs on the side.

When I got home, I boiled a dozen eggs to make egg salad, tried cracking the eggs on the bottom, and it was a game changer. The eggs were much easier to peel, but it still took too long to peel them. So the next time I made boiled eggs, I went rogue and didn't cool the eggs down first. I realized that cooling down the eggs was the only common denomina-



This 2008 file photo shows a bunch of boiled eggs in a bowl. Associated Press

tor with my hard-to-peel eggs. I was taught that you have to pour out the hot water that the eggs were boiled in and immediately cover them with cold water to prevent them from turning gray around the yolk. This may be true, but I discovered that it also makes the shell stick to the eggs. I decided to see what would happen if I peeled the eggs while they were

still hot. I put on my kitchen gloves and started peeling. I cracked the bottom of the egg as Kirsten instructed me, and the egg shells literally slipped off. I peeled a dozen eggs in under five minutes. A few of the eggs did have a gray cast to the yolk, but once I sliced them and mixed them up in egg salad, you couldn't see it. So here's my simple method for "easy-to-peel eggs": □



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Week 45 Unit 2551 - \$5,500
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Hardy scientists trek to Venezuela's last glacier amid chaos

By **CHRISTINA LARSON** and **FEDERICA NARANCIO**

Associated Press

MÉRIDA, Venezuela (AP)

— Blackouts shut off the refrigerators where the scientists keep their lab samples. Gas shortages mean they sometimes have to work from home.

They even reuse sheets of paper to record field data because fresh supplies are so scarce.

As their country falls apart, a hardy team of scientists in Venezuela is determined to transcend the political and economic turmoil to record what happens as the country's last glacier vanishes.

Temperatures are warming faster at the Earth's higher elevations than in lowlands, and scientists predict that the glacier — an ice sheet in the Andes Mountains — could be gone within two decades.

"If we left and came back in 20 years, we would have missed it," says Luis Daniel Llambí, a mountain ecologist at the University of the Andes in Mérida.

Scientists say Venezuela will be the first country in South America to lose all its glaciers.

Throughout history, glaciers have waxed and waned numerous times.

But the rapid pace of glacial retreat over the past century and a half, accelerated by human activities and the burning of fossil fuels, creates a new urgency — and opportunity — for scientists to understand how freshly exposed rock forms new soil and eventually new ecosystems.

While most of the planet's ice is stored in the polar regions, there are also glaciers in some mountainous regions of the tropics — primarily in South America.

"Practically all of the high-mountain tropical glaciers



In this Feb. 19, 2019 photo, scientists hike during a mission to study how temperatures and plant life are changing in the Andean ecosystem known as the paramos — a mist-covered mountain grassland that lies between the top of the treeline and the bottom of the Humboldt glacier, in Mérida, Venezuela.

are in the Andes.

There's still a little bit on Mount Kilimanjaro," says Robert Hofstede, a tropical ecologist in Ecuador who advises international agencies such as the World Bank and United Nations.

Monitoring Venezuela's Humboldt glacier depends on continuous visits, Llambí notes.

And even in the best of circumstances, it's no easy trek from the small mountain town of Mérida to the ice sheet perched within Venezuela's Sierra Nevada National Park at nearly 16,500 feet (5,000 meters) above sea level.

When Llambí and three other scientists made the journey this spring to scout out mountain terrain for a new research project, they first rode a cable car, then walked a full day to the base camp, pitching their tents in drizzling rain.

Each day, they then had to climb an additional three hours to reach the glacier,

at times donning helmets and holding tight to ropes to maneuver up steep boulders. Some of the scientists had waterproofed their worn-out old boots using melted candle wax.

Mountain fieldwork always is physically grueling, but the deepening crisis in Venezuela since the death of former president Hugo Chavez in 2013 has transformed even simple tasks into immense hurdles.

"Things that you normally take for granted for research — internet, gas, electricity — all become scarce and unpredictable," Llambí says.

Perhaps the hardest toll has been watching many of their colleagues and students leave, joining the more than 4 million people who have fled Venezuela's political upheaval in recent years.

"Every week, someone asks me why I haven't left," says Alejandra Melfo, a team member who is a physicist at the University of the Andes.

Not now, she tells anyone who asks.

"Climate change is real and has to be documented," she says. "We have to be there."

The Institute of Environmental and Ecological Sciences at the University of the Andes was founded

50 years ago, in 1969, and the scientists there see themselves as custodians of long-term data monitoring how temperatures and plant life are changing in the region, including in the Andean ecosystem known as the paramos — a mist-covered mountain grassland that lies between the top of the tree line and the bottom of the glacier.

While most tundras have sparse vegetation, the paramos is famous for striking plants called frailejones that can be taller than humans and resemble a cross between a cactus and a palm tree.

These mountain grasslands also store and release water that sustains the cities and croplands further downslope.

It's hard to overstate the importance of the Andean glaciers in maintaining regional water cycles.

"More than 50 million people in South America rely on water provision from the Andes," says Francisco Cuesta, a tropical ecologist at the University of the Americas in Quito, Ecuador, who marvels at the dogged work the team is doing under such punishing conditions.

"To me, it's incredible that they are still doing research there," Cuesta says.

The region is one of the front

lines of climate change. Glaciers in the tropical Andes have been retreating faster than most other glaciers since scientists began keeping detailed records in the 1970s, because tropical latitudes get more direct sunlight and radiation.

When a glacier melts away, at first only bedrock is left behind — sometimes rough gravel and sometimes smooth rock, worn down by centuries or millennia of grinding ice.

But within a few years or decades, bacteria and lichen began to colonize the area.

As they decompose the minerals of the rock and their bodies then decay into organic matter, the first hints of soil begin to form.

And soil is the basis of a new ecosystem, providing a structure to retain water and for plant roots to grow.

"The formation of soil is the difference between an ecosystem being able to form quickly and being stalled for hundreds of years," Llambí says.

On the rocks left behind when the glacier retreats, the scientists think that a new ecosystem resembling the paramos may eventually begin to develop.

But there are many questions still to answer: Will it take decades to form new soil? Can plant and animal species that thrive at lower elevations also survive further upslope?

Will they be able to adapt to continually changing temperatures?

Venezuela has the world's largest known oil reserves, but an economy hitched for decades to global oil demand has proven unstable. Llambí believes he has a special obligation to help inform the public of the impacts of climate change in a country where the boom-and-bust cycle of fossil fuel exploration has shaped nearly everyone's life.

"Our university is in Mérida, which has long been called 'the city of eternal snow,'" he reflects.

"We are discovering that 'eternity' is not forever, and that's what we have to get used to in a world with climate change." □

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Quirks and provocations define Paris Fashion Week shows



Model Bella Hadid wears a creation as part of the Mugler Ready To Wear Spring-Summer 2020 collection, unveiled during the fashion week, in Paris, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

By THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — There were quirks and provocations galore at the second major day of Paris Fashion Week collections, as John Galliano showed why he's still a creative force to be reckoned with — and model Bella Hadid stunned front row guests.

Here are some highlights of Wednesday's spring summer 2020 shows.

MARGIELA GOES ENCYCLOPEDIA

Fashion icon John Galliano outdid himself this season with one of his quirkiest and most creative displays to date for Maison Margiela.

The collection's starting point was the uniform styles of World Wars I and II, but it was encyclopedic at heart.

Much like the soundtrack that flitted from Marlene Dietrich to electro, the 39-piece show defied definition. Intentionally divergent unisex looks — nurses' uniform, veiled hats, big black boots, double breasted woolen jackets, three-dimensional Renaissance capes and a male model in thigh high stripper boots — had fashion insiders equally impressed and amused. Only a couture master such as Galliano can successfully pull off

a collection that paired, for instance, a nun's habit with a voluminous biker jacket in the same stylish look. There was method in the madness: Holding the display together were lean, and often buckled waists, oversize proportions and unexpected plays of depth through layering.

Despite being at the top of the industry for two decades, this season demonstrates that Galliano is still a designer who can pack a surprise.

SOPHOMORE DISPLAY FROM LANVIN'S SIALELLI

Bruno Sialelli, Lanvin's fourth designer in four years, was in a relaxed and playful mood for his sophomore outing at the storied Parisian house.

Gently sloping geometry, both in the shoulder and in hats with exaggerated fisherman-style ear flaps, defined much of the quirky aesthetic.

By pure coincidence, the angular bend of umbrellas clutched by fashionistas in the front row as it rained exactly matched the geometry in the clothes — in a detail that was not lost on editors.

In contrast to the gray Parisian skies at the outdoor garden venue at Musee du Quai Branly, the clothes themselves — in pastel blue, deep

carrot, champagne and pale yellow — were fashioned for spring. Asymmetry and trompe l'oeil styles produced the show's strongest looks.

In one loose sporty dress, horizontal Breton stripes gathered in waves at the hem creating the false impression of movement. But sometimes the looks, with their myriad necklaces, prints, handbags, belts and hats, felt a tad busy.

BELLA IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT MUGLER

Talk about grand openings. Within seconds of Casey Cadwallader's latest offering for Mugler, gasping fashion editors scrambled for their camera phones.

It was none other than model-of-the-moment Bella Hadid causing the furor. She strutted out powerfully onto the runway in an incredibly provocative ensemble: A cropped tuxedo on top of sheer black lingerie that left little to the imagination. The geometry of the look — its square shoulders and softly ribbed corset-shape midriff — was signature Mugler. But its bold style was also a sign that American designer Cadwallader is very much in control after only one year at the house. □



In this Nov. 17, 2004, file photo Jerry Seinfeld, left, Julia Louis Dreyfus and Michael Richards arrive to celebrate the release of the first three seasons of Seinfeld on DVD in New York.

Associated Press

Yada yada yada: Netflix to air 'Seinfeld' starting in 2021

Associated Press

LOS GATOS, Calif. (AP) — Move aside, "Friends" and "The Office." Netflix now has a new gem — a show about nothing.

The company announced Monday it would start streaming all 180 episodes of "Seinfeld" in 2021, gaining a hugely popular addition to its library as the battle for viewers heats up.

Netflix Inc., which pioneered the binge-watching culture of streaming, was dealt a double blow this summer when it lost "The Office" and "Friends," two of its most popular shows, as their respective owners pulled them to add to their own streaming services.

"The Office" will leave at the end of 2020 to join NBCUniversal's new streaming service, and "Friends" will leave at the beginning of 2020 to join the upcoming HBO Max service.

It's a battle not likely to wane as the streaming TV space grows more crowded. Netflix has created significant momentum with its original shows, but new competitors are constantly popping up, including streaming arrivals from Apple and Disney.

Still, Netflix has a head start in the online space, with its deep library of past and new shows. It struck the five-year deal with Sony Pictures Television for the global streaming rights to "Seinfeld," the Emmy-winning television comedy which aired its final episode in 1998. Terms were not released.

The Los Angeles Times reported Netflix paid well above the speculated \$500 million NBCUniversal paid to retake "The Office," and the reported \$130 million Hulu parent Walt Disney Co. paid for "Seinfeld." Both of those deals are for U.S. streaming only — Netflix has bought the global rights to show "Seinfeld."

"Seinfeld is the television comedy that all television comedy is measured against," Netflix Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos said in a statement.

Netflix noted it is still focused on producing its own shows — but it can't ignore the demand for rewatching old hits. The company spent \$12 billion on original and non-original programming last year.

Jerry Seinfeld's show "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" and his standup special "Jerry Before Seinfeld" are already distributed by Netflix. □



This image released by Roadside Attractions shows Renée Zellweger as Judy Garland in a scene from "Judy," in theaters on Sept. 27.

Associated Press

Renée Zellweger captures Garland's essence in 'Judy'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

Renée Zellweger is so undeniably perfect as Judy Garland that it almost makes up for the shortcomings of the film around it. "Judy" is itself a fine and imperfect look at some of Garland's last years of life, but it really should have been something transcendent — Zellweger's performance demands it.

Inspired by Peter Quilter's play "End of the Rainbow," "Judy" drops in on Garland in late 1968 and early 1969, another down moment in the star's turbulent life. Garland at this point is 46 and looks older — a lifetime of pills, smoking, weight loss, weight gain and booze has taken its toll and she has been whittled down to a wisp of a person. She also in the midst of a contentious divorce from producer Sid Luft (Rufus Sewell), who gambled away all her money at the race track, somehow still got the house and is trying to get custody of their two young children, Lorna (Bella Ramsey of "Game of Thrones") and Joey. Liza Minnelli (Gemma-Leah Devereux) at this point is grown and pursuing her own career in showbiz. Garland's life in the present is painfully unsettled.

She is living out of suitcases in hotels and dragging her kids around to be in her low-paying gigs. There is something unspeakably sad about the fact that Garland, despite all of her success, her talent, her fame and over 40 years of giving everything to the performance, still had no place to call home. She is a vaudeville vagrant. Her home is on stage, her family is the audience. And at the moment, she's the "unreliable" and "uninsurable" bad seed that no one in her home country wants to deal with.

The film cuts between the present moment and the set of "The Wizard of Oz," in which audiences get a crash course on the psychological and emotional stranglehold studio chief Louis B. Mayer (Richard Cordery) had on his 15-year-old employee (played with verve by Darcie Shaw). Working from a screenplay by Tom Edge, director Rupert Goold presents Garland's story lovingly and without judgment. He takes time to show the person behind the pain (and the headlines), something that barely anyone in her circle seemed to offer her at the time. But it's Zellweger who makes her come

alive again with a clear-eyed, deeply emphatic and captivating portrayal that elegantly balances her profound sadness and vulnerability with that gloriously bawdy and dark sense of humor. Zellweger's voice might not be an exact match of Garland's, but the soul and spirit that she brings along with her lovely approximation will certainly elicit more than a few goosebumps.

Some of the best moments are her on stage, or just about to go out convinced that she can barely speak let alone sing only to turn it on for the crowd seconds later. But there's also a touching sequence with a few of her fans who give her a much-needed night of normalcy and also gives a nod to her importance in the LGBTQ community.

The film leaves something to be desired with basic facts, however. It assumes much, glosses over some and seems to skip over crucial developments — like how Mickey Deans (Finn Wittrock) went from random admirer to fifth husband. It also ends six months before her death. In other words, it's up to the viewer to fill in the blanks (or find a good biography to help afterward). □

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Simpson breaks from country with 'Sound & Fury'

By **SCOTT BAUER**
Associated Press

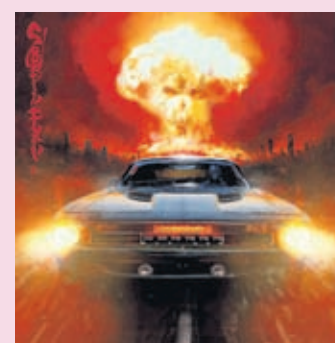
Sturgill Simpson, "Sound & Fury" (Elektra)
Forget country, outlaw country or whatever Sturgill Simpson's genre-pushing music has been categorized as. "Sound & Fury" is melt-your-face-off fuzz rock. Simpson describes it as "sleazy, steamy rock 'n' roll" and he's right. "Sound & Fury" is as much country music as Dolly Parton is punk rock. Sometimes when an artist takes a left turn, they come off as a poser. Not Simpson. He feels right at home with

"Sound & Fury."

It serves as the soundtrack to a Netflix anime film of the same name being released the same day. The record was recorded primarily at the McGuire Motor Inn in Waterford, Michigan, because, well, why not?

The track "Make Art Not Friends" is as close to a mission statement from Simpson as he's ever come.

He may not make many friends from those wanting more country from "Sound & Fury," but it's clear Simpson doesn't care much. Simpson was never a conventional country singer,



This cover image released by Elektra shows "Sound & Fury" by Sturgill Simpson.

Associated Press

even as he won "Best Country Album" and "Album of the Year" at the 2016 Grammy's. If there were any fans who were hoping he would turn more country and less rock, they are going to be sorely disappointed, angry maybe, with this one. Maybe that's just what Simpson wanted. □

'Black Ink' looks to change negative stereotypes of Compton

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) — Danny "KP" Kilpatrick has inked tattoos for Diddy, Nas, Taraji P. Henson and numerous other stars, but his latest venture aims to create a safe space in his hometown of Compton. Kilpatrick stars in "Black Ink Crew: Compton," the newest VH1 series that chronicles prominent tattoo artists. He hopes his shop can help change the image of a city known for gang culture and high murder rate. "We're showing we can unite. We're shedding a different light of Compton through art, our ink and music," he said of the series, which airs Wednesdays on VH1. He's a native of the area and owner of iAM-Compton, which is considered the community's first black-owned tattoo shop. Kilpatrick and his crew of tattoo artists attempt to make the shop a "safe zone" in Compton and help build up one of the most economically underserved communities in the United States. He believes attracting a mix of outside clients and locals to the appointment-only shop can start to make that happen. The reality series is the third spinoff of the "Black Ink Crew" franchise. The other



This Aug. 15, 2019 photo shows, from left, Danny "KP" Kilpatrick, Erica "Barbie" Thompson, Christian "Ink Drippin" Thomas and Timothy "Tim" Simmons, cast members in the reality television series "Black Ink Crew: Compton," at the iAM Compton tattoo shop in Compton, Calif.

locations include Chicago and New York, which is currently airing its eighth season on Sundays. Kilpatrick, 36, has already made his mark as a famed tattoo artist for several celebrities including Travis Scott. He could have opened a tattoo shop in a more popular area in Los Angeles, but he felt compelled to plant roots where he grew up to show that a black-owned business can thrive in Compton, a city of roughly 100,000 people south of downtown Los

Angeles. Before that could happen, Kilpatrick and his cousin Tim Simmons met with Compton's rival gang leaders at a dimly lit warehouse to seek their approval to open the shop, which turned into a small scuffle. He later got the blessing from a group of gang members who barged into the shop's ground-breaking party. Those scenes were intense, but some on social media said they thought the interactions with gangs were staged. The cast insists ev-

erything they filmed is real, especially the aftermath of a shooting at a barbershop near their business. "We've had some negative press saying 'Oh, you're making Compton look bad,'" said Erica "Barbie" Thompson, a receptionist at the shop. "At the end of the day, the stuff that's being shown is real. This is really happening in Compton. We're just now seeing it on VH1 instead of the news. We're not showing anything that's not happening. Our goal is to try to

clean this up the best way we can. We're not making up false gang allegations. It's real out here."

Kilpatrick said he was grateful to earn the gang leaders' support to bring peace to the neighborhood. He envisions a day when he'll have his celeb friends and other clients feeling comfortable enough to visit Compton without any worries. "People in this city actually want change," said Kilpatrick, a former college football player who was kicked out of school after a drug charge. He learned the art of tattooing after selling his drawings to a local tattoo parlor more than a decade ago.

"This is my second chance," he said. "And honestly, nobody wants to be going to funerals all the time. I grew up and ran these streets. For me now, I'm really telling the homies like 'Yo, I'm doing something. It could be big for all of us.' This show will show that people can positively change the way they live." Simmons said their meeting with gang leaders was imperative, calling it "hood politics." He said they couldn't safely open their shop or film the show in Compton without the gangster's permission first. □

Tom Hanks to receive Cecil B. DeMille Award at Golden Globes

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Hanks became one of Hollywood's beloved actors through an array of likable roles, from "Big" to "Forrest Gump," and now his decorated career has earned him one of the highest honors at the Golden Globes next year. Hanks will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 5, 2020, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday. The actor has won praise for a string of compelling characters in movies including "Saving Private Ryan," the "Toy Story" films, and the Golden Globe-winning

"Cast Away," for which he lost 55 pounds to play a man stranded on a desert island. HFPA President Lorenzo Soria said in a statement that Hanks captivated audiences with "rich and playful characters." He said the actor was also a force behind the camera as writer, producer and director. The DeMille Award is given annually to an "individual who has made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment." Past recipients include Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Jodie Foster, Barbara Streisand, Sidney Poitier and Lucille Ball. Hanks, 63, is a four-time Golden Globe winner who broke

through with his role in the 1984 film "Splash," in which he played a man who falls in love with a mermaid. He claimed his first Globe in 1988 for "Big," in which he portrayed a 13-year-old boy whose body turned into a 35-year-old man overnight after making a wish. The actor won a couple Globes for "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump," two films that earned him Academy Awards. He was also lauded for his directing work in HBO's 2001 miniseries "Band of Brothers," which won an Emmy. In 2014, Hanks received an award at the Kennedy Center Honors. He also was given a lifetime achievement award by the Ameri-



In this Sept. 8, 2016 file photo, Tom Hanks arrives at the premiere of "Sully" in Los Angeles.

can Film Institute in 2009. Hanks will star as Mister Rogers in the biopic "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" in November. His other upcoming projects

include the WWII drama "Greyhound," which he wrote; the post-apocalyptic "BIOS"; and the post-Civil War film "News of the World." □

Perk up: France resuscitates dying villages 1 cafe at a time

By JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — For the rural French village of Port-Brillet, the closure of its last cafe came as a painful shock.

Suddenly gone was the haunt where patrons put the world to rights over a drink or three, where anglers propping up the bar could crow about their catches from nearby lakes, and where the village mayor liked to play table football with friends. The demise of Le P'tit Bar, the local newspaper lamented, robbed Port-Brillet of "a bit of its soul."

"Losing the cafe was a tough blow," says the mayor, Gilles Pairin. "I believe in the virtues of cafes. Most of all, I believe in places where people can meet each other."

A mass die-off of France's iconic cafes, from 200,000 to fewer than 40,000 in a half-century, is depriving the French of cozy watering-holes where they've gathered for generations — not merely for perk-me-up espressos, crusty morning croissants, and beer and wine late into the night but, most importantly, for company to keep solitude at bay.

The social-glue role of cafes as places where the French mingle, find friendship and sometimes love, squabble, mourn and celebrate, is seen as being so vital for the national well-being that a mentor and political ally of President Emmanuel Macron is launching a 150-million euro (\$165 million) rescue



A closed cafe is pictured in Roubaix, northern France, Tuesday Sept.17, 2019.

Associated Press

plan for 1,000 of them. It is focusing on small villages off the beaten track where the shuttering of cafes is often a drama because the closures leave inhabitants with few, if any, alternative places to socialize.

For Jean-Marc Borello, who was one of Macron's teachers when the future leader of France was a student at Paris' prestigious Sciences Po university, saving cafes isn't only a social mission. It's also an effort to respond to the bubbling grievances in swaths of France that people who live away from the bright lights of Paris and other cities are being left behind, deprived of public services, fast and reliable communications and opportunities for both work and play.

This "real territorial fracture," as Borello puts it, be-

tween hopping cities and torpid towns and villages was dramatically exposed by the so-called "yellow vest" protest movement that erupted last November and rocked Macron's presidency.

Legions of demonstrators in fluorescent jackets converged on the capital from the provinces for successive weekends during the months of often-violent upheaval that could yet flare again. Their complaints over taxation, wages, retreating public services and other issues painted the government in Paris as being chronically out of touch.

Borello, who heads a large French nonprofit with an annual turnover of 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) from a palette of activities in healthcare, childcare and other fields, doesn't claim that rescuing cafes,

alone, will assuage yellow vest tempers.

But reopening cafes in villages that lost them will, he argues, help combat social isolation, providing inhabitants with places to meet and kindle friendships, and "little by little restoring life to a village and connecting it to the rest of the world."

"The simple fact of doing things together sometimes rekindles hope," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Borello wants the new locales to be supercharged versions of the traditional French bistrot. As well as the usual beverages, snacks and betting slips, they could also offer essentials that aren't always close at hand in out-of-the-way areas, including bread, groceries, internet access and postal services, and even help

with online tax returns and other paperwork.

Although Borello doesn't say so outright, people with cafes to go to might perhaps feel less of an urge to head back to makeshift camps that popped up on town and village roundabouts across France during the yellow vest movement. The camps had both a political role, as visible hotspots of protest, and a social one, with demonstrators gathering around campfires to share gripes, beers, barbecue sausages and make friends.

"Clearly, the need to meet other people, to chat with other people, was also at the heart of those troubles," Borello acknowledged.

Employees at the Paris headquarters of Borello's Groupe SOS are sifting through letters from mayors proposing their villages for one of the 1,000 cafes and from people volunteering to run them. The cafe managers will get business training, while "villagers will decide on the name and we'll decide on the decor together," Borello said.

Groupe SOS aims to inaugurate the first new or rescued cafe before the end of the year.

Changing French demographics and habits contributed to the die-off of cafes. Village kids moved to towns for work; and highways and France's super-fast network of TGV trains pinched off towns' through-traffic that kept bistros in business.

As wine consumption plummeted and smoking was banned, the once-common sight of men starting their days with "ballons de rouge" — glasses of red — in smoke-filled bars increasingly became a memory. And instead of shopping at village markets, fortifying themselves in cafes before and after filling their baskets with produce, families instead drove to out-of-town supermarkets for weekly groceries. □



A closed cafe named "Cafe du Siecle" is seen in Pontcharra-sur-Turdine, central France, Monday, Sept. 16, 2019.

Associated Press



A closed cafe is pictured in Roubaix, northern France, Tuesday Sept.17, 2019.

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